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'We had to make the right decision in the interests of our child'

## Harman 'will not quit over son's school'

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

HARRIET HARMAN fought back against an avalanche of hypocrisy charges last night with an emotional defence of her decision to send her son to a grammar school. She said she was acting in the child's best interests and would not be resigning from the Shadow Cabinet.

Ms Harman's choice of school for her son, Joseph, has torn her party in two in the worst internal row of Tony Blair's leadership. But the Shadow Health Secretary insisted: "I have not discussed my resignation. I am not going to be resigning. I do not think my position is untenable."

She told Channel 4 News that she fully supported Labour's opposition to selective schools, but she added: "Our choice that we are having to make here and now makes no difference to our education policy. I support our education policy, but I think most parents in the country will understand that we had to make the right decision for our child and that we would have been less than human if we had done anything else."

Like tens of thousands of other parents whose children were leaving junior school, they had looked at what was in the state system and worked out which would be the right school for their child. "We knew it would be controversial. It was difficult."

"We had to make the right decision in the interests of our child. Just as I want excellence in education for my child, we want excellence in education for all children. We have not moved him out of the state system. We are not in favour of selection."

The controversy completely overshadowed Labour's planned assault yesterday on the Government's plans for nursery school vouchers, giving the Tories a huge boost. Few Labour MPs were prepared to back her decision and two Shadow Cabinet members said privately that her position was untenable. Gerry Steinberg resigned as chairman of

the backbench Labour education committee and Joan Lester went close to a public attack.

Mr Blair, however, supported Ms Harman. His aides made plain that he did not regard it a "hanging offence" and thought that colleagues should keep a sense of proportion.

Mr Blair made no effort to persuade Ms Harman to change her mind when she told him that Joseph was to go to St Olave's School in Orpington rather than to the local comprehensive in Southwark. Others in the leadership learnt of her decision several weeks ago.

Mr Blair, who himself came under fire for sending his son Euan to the opted-out London

**Ms Harman feels that, above all else, she is a mother and is determined to do the right thing by her children**

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 13

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Oratory school, was reported to feel strongly that it was no part of his job to tell his colleagues how to live their lives. But nor would there be any change in Labour's education policy.

Ms Harman, who is recovering from bronchitis, spent most of yesterday under siege from the press at the London home she shares with her husband Jack Dromey, a transport union official. But she emerged late in the afternoon to go to the Commons to see Mr Blair and other colleagues, before giving her television interview.

That came after a day of agonised soul-searching among Labour MPs. Depart-

ing from her overseas development brief, Miss Lester pointedly issued a press release underlining her support for comprehensive education, saying it was not "a matter of political correctness but of political conviction and principle". She backed the opposition of David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, to selection by academic test or parental interview.

Another front-bencher said that Ms Harman was guilty of "premier league hypocrisy".

Ms Harman was, however, reported by friends to be in a "leisty" mood as she complained to the Press Complaints Commission alleging that Joseph had been harassed as he set out for school.

In the Commons, Gillian Shephard, claimed that Labour's schools policy was in complete disarray. "Nothing now can hide the basic contradiction and deep division at the heart of Labour education policy," the Education Secretary said. "Choice and diversity for some members of the Labour front bench but clearly stated and oft repeated policy intentions to remove that choice and diversity from everyone else."

Mr Blunkett suggested that Labour was in "total unity" on its policy. "Every parent in every community, whether they are an MP or not, should have the right to exercise a preference for their child to go to the school of their choice," he said. "That preference should not be blocked by any mechanism that prevents a child entering that school, either on the basis of his prior attainment at the age of 11 or on an interview with his parents. That is why we are against selection and will remain against selection."

But Mr Steinberg said that he was resigning as a matter of protest and principle. "because I believe the action taken by Harriet Harman is in direct contradiction to Labour's policy on comprehensive education and somebody had to make a stand". Continued on page 2, col 7



Harriet Harman leaves home to see Tony Blair and defend her choice of school

## Grammar schools to top 'Oscars'

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GRAMMAR schools will dominate a list of 30 secondaries singled out for praise for their outstanding performance by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools.

The Times has learnt that more than half of the schools which will receive the accolade next month, known as "Oscars" by school inspectors, are drawn from the small

band of selective schools. The findings will boost campaigns for selective education. One in three grammar schools inspected last year was judged by inspectors to be outstanding, compared with about one in 55 comprehensives.

Inspectors judged schools on all aspects of their performance and allowed for the different standards of pupils on admission. To be judged outstanding, a school had to be awarded top inspection

marks in four main categories: examination standards; quality of teaching and learning; social, moral and cultural development; and efficiency.

Fifty-three of the 902 secondary schools inspected in 1994-95 are selective. Only 161 grammars remain among the 4,000 secondary schools in England and Wales.

This is the first time Mr Woodhead has identified the best state schools. Last year he merely named the 52 most

## Princess loses last senior aide as her private secretary quits

By ALAN HAMILTON AND JOANNA BALE

THE Princess of Wales lost the last of her senior aides yesterday when Patrick Jephson, her private secretary and head of her office, resigned. He told the Princess of his decision yesterday morning, and by afternoon had gone.

Mr Jephson, 39, a former Royal Navy officer, had worked for the Princess since 1988, first as an equerry and later as an assistant private secretary. The Princess appointed him her private secretary and head of her office in 1992, at the time her separation from the Prince of Wales was announced.

The resignation coincides with the disclosure of further tribulation for the Princess, who has received a demand from lawyers that she withdraw remarks she allegedly made at a private party at Christmas, concerning Victoria Legge-Bourke, the Prince of Wales's personal assistant.

Last night Mr Jephson, who is married with two young children, denied suggestions that his sudden departure was a result of the Princess's failure to inform him in advance that she had recorded a revealing and controversial interview for the BBC Panorama programme in November. "It has been a great honour to work for the Princess of Wales, and I have very much enjoyed the challenges of the last eight years. With a growing family, however, I feel that I must now be free to consider a new career path," he said.

He added that he had always planned to step down sometime during 1996. He did not have another job to walk into, but he was considering a number of possibilities.

Buckingham Palace said last night that the process of finding a replacement for Mr Jephson had begun. The Princess has now lost all her

official household, including private secretary, press secretary, and full-time police protection officer. She retains only the services of two junior secretaries at St James's Palace, but is expected shortly to appoint an outside media consultant to handle her press relations.

The Palace said that it would help out the Princess with day-to-day administrative matters; her programme of official public engagements is currently light, but she still receives a lot of mail.

Despite Mr Jephson's protestations, and his claim that his departure had been "perfectly amiable", there is no doubt that an atmosphere of increasing isolation and strain accompanied by the sound of legal knife-sharpening now surrounds the Princess and her immediate entourage. The Panorama interview caused deep dismay among her staff, who were kept in the dark until the last moment, and it led to the resignation of Geoffrey Crawford, her press secretary. Mr Crawford let it be known that he found his position as her official spokesman untenable, and he returned to his principal job as deputy press secretary to the Queen.

But there are now even stormier waters on the horizon. Mr Jephson has left at the highly sensitive moment when legal discussions on the Prince and Princess's divorce are likely to begin, with the prospect of acrimony in the air. Palace sources suggested last night that the Princess was happy for Mr Jephson to leave at once rather than in the middle of difficult negotiations.

His last big task was to shepherd the Princess on a visit to Argentina in November. Continued on page 3, col 7

## Ashdown's terms for Labour pact

Paddy Ashdown yesterday made electoral reform the price for working together with Labour to secure at least a decade of reforming and modernising government.

In his latest overture towards Tony Blair, the Liberal Democrat leader, who was speaking in London, set out plans for a modern Great Reform Bill, including plans for a new voting system to be put to the British people in a referendum. Page 2

## Lucy the bull terrier is cleared for doing what a dog's got to do

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN ENGLISH Bull Terrier which killed a cat was freed yesterday after a magistrate ruled that she was only doing what dogs do.

Three-year-old Lucy had spotted the pregnant cat, Fluffy, in a shrubbery, chased her across a field and into Dawn Turner's back garden, where she picked her up, shook her like a rag doll and chewed at her.

Mrs Turner was horrified and, fearing for her four children, called the police. They went on to issue a civil summons on her behalf under the 1871 Dogs Act.

Under the Act, a dog that is dangerous and not kept under proper control may be ordered to be destroyed. But even the owner of the cat was against imposing the death sentence on Lucy, and yesterday Elizabeth Whitmore, the Bexley magistrate, agreed that the

dog was not a danger to the public. She also ordered defence costs against Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police commissioner.

Afterwards, Lucy's owners, Lisa O'Brien and Michael Collins, were jubilant, but he said the case had been a waste of taxpayers' money. "If Lucy had been found guilty, it would have been a death

sentence for all dogs," Mr Collins said. "If she had been a poodle this would never have come so far. This proves what I love my cats, but I've got five to replace her."

Mrs Turner, who is eight months' pregnant, had told the court that she had seen Lucy holding Fluffy in her mouth. "The dog was shaking the cat like a rag doll. I was frightened and kept thinking of my children. I love dogs, but it's a natural instinct for a mother to be concerned."

But Trevor Cooper, for the defence, said a dog should not be deemed dangerous just because it chased or killed a cat. "I concede Lucy frightened Mrs Turner, but the test in law isn't what Mrs Turner felt. It is a matter of common knowledge that dogs chase cats. You can't find a dog dangerous for doing what dogs naturally do."

"You are aware of the saying, 'fighting like cat and dog', it's in their nature."



Lucy's owner, a jubilant Lisa O'Brien, gives her a hug

## Birth of planets still a mystery

First results from Galileo's probe, which plunged to its destruction in Jupiter's atmosphere on December 7, showed less water, helium and neon than astronomers had expected.

The data were released yesterday by NASA, the US space agency, and have left astronomers puzzled over how planets are formed. The lack of water clouds meant that the probe found only about a tenth as much lightning on Jupiter as on Earth. Page 11

## Daimler severs Fokker lifeline

Directors of Fokker, the Dutch plane-maker, met to decide whether to seek court protection from creditors after its parent, Daimler-Benz, cut off its cash lifeline.

Closure of the company would be a blow for Short Brothers in Belfast, which builds wings and other parts for the Fokker jets, and for Rolls-Royce, which supplies the Tay engines. Page 23

## School Fees and Further Education Costs



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# Blunkett spared unnerving sight as nightmare becomes reality

EVERYONE has nightmares. We may be filing into the school examination room, knowing nothing of the subject we may be trembling in the stage footlights, ignorant of our lines or facing a lion. Terrors such as these can grip and shake us until, bolt upright in a cold sweat and screaming "Help!", we see the grey dawn outside and the tangled bedclothes around us, and, with that sweet, creeping sense of relief, realise it was only a dream.

For David Blunkett yesterday, there was no grey dawn, no tangled bedclothes, no relief. Unfortunately, it was not a dream.

He really was on his feet at the dispatch box in the Commons chamber. All those jeers came from real Tories. Up in the press gallery (could he hear our pencils scratching?) sat row upon row of real reporters, smirking.

And this really was a debate on education. Yes, the nightmare was true. He, David Blunkett, was the man who

had said: "Read my lips: no selection." He was the man who had written: "I'm having no truck with left-wing, middle class parents who preach one thing, then take their children outside the area."

He was the man at whom Michael Brown (Conservative, Brigg & Cleethorpes) was now screaming, like a demented raccoon: "How does he square that, with what she's doing today?"

"She," of course, was Harriet Harman, Mr Brown, who told MPs he had failed his 11 plus and been educated at a

secondary modern school, was reverting to playground thuggery such as young Euan Blair is unlikely to learn at the Oratory, and master Joe Dromey may miss at St Olave's.

It seems a pity that MPs seek to airlift their own children out of the worst types of school as these institutions would be excellent preparation for the House of Commons. If the political classes went to urban jungle schools and the voters went to county grammar schools, it might work well.

Mr Blunkett is blind. He has tried for years to remain consistent in what he says. Undermined last year by Tony Blair, backstabbed over the weekend by Ms Harman,

pecked at for an hour by the sparrow-like Education Secretary Gillian Shephard in yesterday's debate, jostled by his own backbenchers and snarled and torn at now by the demented raccoon from Cleethorpes, what was he feeling? The rug had been well and truly pulled from under him.

I asked myself (the question is meant seriously) if, being blind and missing one of the senses by which your fellow men seem to communicate with each other, there are moments — whole weeks,

even — when you wonder whether you might be the object of some monstrous cosmic conspiracy?

It is a conspiracy in which diverse voices from sources which you alone cannot see taunt you with false friendship, cheating promises and duff information: a pantomime of deceiving noises in the dark. You await the hour when some kind Prospero halts the play and explains to you where all the voices have been coming from.

In fact, Mr Blunkett put in a plucky and controlled performance, little helped by front and back benches around him scowling, tittering, guffawing and gesturing neurotically.

Only a powerful left hook which Roy Hattersley landed square on the government front bench's chin (it was about Tory indecision on Church schools) offered the Opposition any relief. Watching the Labour Party, seasick and squabbling, falling apart in the chamber after one political reverse, was unnerving.

It was a sight David Blunkett, at least, was spared.

## Clarke's warning over split on currency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

KENNETH Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pressed home Britain's worries about the impact of European monetary union on the countries that stay out yesterday and lamented that Britain was not yet ready for a "calm and well-informed debate" on the single currency.

Mr Clarke was on the defensive at a Brussels ministerial meeting after sniping from Conservative Eurosceptics over a letter on EMU which he had written to Lamberto Dini, Italy's caretaker Prime Minister and current President of the European Council. The Chancellor's critics faulted him on their regular charge of excessive eagerness to preserve Britain's EMU option.

However the letter merely expanded on the argument made by John Major when he persuaded fellow leaders in Madrid last month to launch a study of the potentially damaging impact of EMU.

There was a danger, Mr Clarke told Signor Dini, that the "ins" — EMU members — would become a "club within a club". It was vital to prevent a "major political and economic gap opening up between ins and at least some 'outs'".

In his usual ebullient mood, Mr Clarke told his colleagues it was vital that Britain remained involved in the preparations for monetary union, due in 1999, whether it went ahead on schedule or not.

## Tory damage cannot be repaired by single party, says Lib Dem leader

# Ashdown offers Blair partnership — but at a price

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

PADDY ASHDOWN yesterday made electoral reform the price for working with Labour to secure at least a decade of reforming and modernising government. In his latest overture towards Tony Blair, the Liberal Democrat leader set out plans for a modern Great Reform Bill, including a new voting system to be put to the people in a referendum.

He also outlined a tough policy agenda on education, welfare, health, the environment and Europe to be addressed by the next government. In a new policy departure, he called for the public to be consulted over which health services should be provided free from general taxation and which should be paid for.

Mr Ashdown's "bottom line" demand on proportional representation is the one that Mr Blair may find hardest to accept. Although his speech in London did not spell it out, Mr Ashdown's aides are making plain that he would expect a Blair government to campaign for a "yes" vote in a referendum on PR. At present, Mr Blair is not convinced of the need for change.

Without an overhaul of the constitution, the other changes the Liberal Democrats wanted

could not work and would not be completed. Mr Ashdown said, "Replacing Britain's outdated, secretive and confrontational institutions with new dynamic institutions which will become the engine room for change and improvement is now absolutely vital for Britain's success in the next century."

In spite of opposition from within his party, and the distraction of a leaked internal document containing a sharp assessment of its weaknesses, Mr Ashdown was making another cautious step towards a potential post-election deal with Labour.

He did so by trying to look beyond the next election and giving warning that unless opposition politicians now confronted people with the hard choices needed to put Britain right, there was a risk of a "one-parliament failure" and the return to power of a virulent right-wing Conservative Party four years later.

His message to Labour was that it could not win two terms and carry out a broad programme of reform without his help. Mr Ashdown pointed to the fate of Bill Clinton's administration in the United States, which had fast lost popularity. Modern voters

changed their minds with amazing speed, he said.

A "tactical victory" over the Tory Government was not enough. "What I believe we need is a new kind of politics. I am going to call it partnership politics." He said that repairing the damage of the past 17 years and restoring trust in government was an immense task which could not be completed in a single parliament.

He proposed a new culture in British politics in which "parties which are different, distinctive and independent offer separate choices at the ballot box, but are prepared to work together where they agree and they believe it is in the nation's interest to do so."

He insisted that partnership politics did not mean pacts and did not require coalition. "It is as easy and as effective for parties to work together across the floor of the House as it is to form a partnership on the government benches."

Mr Ashdown set out his key policy demands:   
□ Education: priority investment of £2 billion as the start of a "decade of investment", plus pre-school education for all three and four year olds.   
□ Welfare: refashioning of the



Mr Ashdown set proportional representation as the bottom line for Tony Blair

system to encourage people to work in different and flexible ways, and to reward saving and thrift. Liberal Democrats recognise not only the failings but the expense of the system.   
□ Europe: Mr Ashdown said that the division in the "directionless government" was damaging Britain. But

"however much both other parties equivocate on Europe the Liberal Democrats will not waver. I want us to be the rock on which people can depend, the guarantee of Britain's future in Europe."

□ Health: the next government should open up the health service further, making

it accountable to the local community. Then the NHS would have to find ways of engaging the public in deciding which services should be provided free and which services on the margins people would have to pay for.

Schools row, page 8

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Proposed Academy of Sport rejected

The Prime Minister's plan for a British Academy of Sport has been rejected by the national governing bodies and elite competitors.

Speaker after speaker at a consultation meeting in London yesterday called for the £100 million lottery funds to be put into regional training centres with a co-ordinating hub instead of a single academy.

Although all the written responses from the national governing bodies have yet to be completed, Sports Council officials privately agree that the idea of a single green field site for the academy is "dead in the water".

Talent funds, page 5

### Church attacks

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Basil Hume have written to the Prime Minister expressing alarm at government plans to cut benefits to asylum seekers. The intervention of the leaders of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Church was disclosed yesterday as MPs called for a taskforce to be created to track down fraudsters who abuse the asylum system. A spokesman for Cardinal Hume said: "Contact at the highest level is continuing."

### Murder charge

Khalid Mahmood, 38, appeared before magistrates in Birmingham charged with murdering Imtiaz Begum, 35, his estranged wife, outside the city's New Street rail station. Mr Mahmood, of Montpelier, Bristol, was remanded in custody until January 25. Four of the couple's children, a son and three daughters, have been found dead.

### Hostage hopes

The Foreign Office welcomed the release of one of the 14 hostages held by separatist guerrillas in a jungle in Indonesian New Guinea as a "positive sign". The handing over of Jacobus Wandiba, an Indonesian, to missionary mediators, has raised hopes that the other captives, including four young Britons, may be freed within days.

### Ulster arms plan

John Major was last night expecting to receive proposals on decommissioning terrorist weapons in Northern Ireland prepared by an international commission headed by George Mitchell, the former US senator. It is hoped the report will break the deadlock in the quest for peace. A Commons statement is expected soon, possibly tomorrow.

### ITN ballot

Staff at ITN, which supplies news to ITV and Channel 4 have voted by more than two to one in favour of taking industrial action over pay. The National Union of Journalists and Bectu, the technicians union, meet today to discuss what form their action should take.

## Former MP's son recalls torment by local children

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE son of a former Labour MP came to the defence of Harriet Harman last night and claimed he still suffered nightmares about the insults he endured at school in his father's constituency.

Nicholas Parkyn, 41, said that as the son of an MP he had been expected to spend ten years of his childhood setting an exemplary standard to do credit to his father. He totally understood why Ms Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary and MP for Pockham, was sending her son to a school outside her local authority catchment area.

"For an MP's child, equality is out of the question. The child is marked. You might as well have a green face. The other kids have a handle on you. Being kids, they use it. You become the butt of all the malcontent in the school. It's only a handful of kids. But that is all it takes," said Mr Parkyn.

His father Brian was MP for Bedford between 1966-70, and fought the seat in 1964 and October 1974. Nicholas was at Bedford Modern, a direct grant primary school, when his father entered the Commons. "Then I was known as a slob. When I passed my 11-plus, and went to

the Pilgrim School, I became a snob," he said.

A far higher proportion of Conservative MPs than Labour MPs have their children educated outside the constituency, often in the private sector. But according to Mr Parkyn it was a sort of "badge of honour" for Labour MPs to put their children in a local state school.

Mr Parkyn claimed he was harshly punished for the slightest misdemeanours because of who he was. "Justice had to be seen to be done," he said. "It is hard to explain the continued trauma of an MP's child within the constituency. Laughed at in the playground. Hissed at on the hustings."

"The kids would have a go at me because of stories about my father in the local press. Or because the [Labour] Government was unpopular. The most familiar refrain was: 'my mum and dad say it's all Nicholas Parkyn's dad's fault.'"

"I liken it to being marooned on a desert island. There was food and clothes but no equable company. It begins when your parent is selected as candidate and goes on years after they have lost their seat."

Mr Parkyn, an unemployed

project manager, urged all MPs to educate their children outside the constituency. "It avoids the prospect of them becoming a goldfish in a pool of piranhas."

Mr Parkyn described relations with his father today as "cordial". He had one sister who had learned from his mistakes.

"I am not the only casualty of this torture. I would not wish the misery of my schooldays on anyone else. Harriet Harman is being criticised because the school she is sending her son to is ten miles away. She is right to be criticised: ten miles is not far enough."

His father, who returned to the commercial sector after he lost his seat, also stood by Miss Harman. Mr Parkyn, 72, said: "My son found it very difficult. He was bullied at school. I believed that I should live in the constituency. It put a great burden on the family. If I had my time again I would either not live in the constituency or I would send my children to a boarding school on the other side of the country. I have absolute sympathy for Harriet Harman. The media is even more intrusive now. She is putting her family first."

## Grammar school 'Oscars'

Continued from page 1 improved schools. A senior official of Ofsted, the inspection agency, said: "In the past we have been far too hung up about hiding achievement and, in some cases, lack of achievement. I cannot see any reason not to do this as long as we also acknowledge the other group which are good and improving."

He added: "We hope this will give a clear signal to parents, teachers and the public that we do have some very good schools in this country and that they can be identified by inspection. We want to celebrate that success and no doubt for many of them it will be something they use at every opportunity."

The agency is expecting a backlash from those schools

which feel they have just missed out, which is why the final list is still being checked and double-checked.

Next month's report will also identify about 60 improving schools and excellent primary and nursery schools and very effective special schools, naming around about 100 overall. None of the schools chosen for an "Oscar" has yet been informed but one leading contender is Kendrick Girls' School in Reading.

Inspectors said the school was outstanding and had achieved "very high standards in all aspects of its work". They added: "The education provided allows pupils to achieve excellence in both their academic performance and their personal development."

## Minister 'will not quit'

Continued from page 1 Doug McAvoy, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that he had every sympathy with Mr Steinberg's decision to step down and warned Labour chiefs that his union would oppose any shift in Mr Blunkett's stated policy on selective schools.

Ann Clwyd, a former member of the Shadow Cabinet, also criticised Mr Harman. "I have every appreciation of Harriet's abilities," she said. "She is a very able and talented person. But I think on this particular issue, she is wrong, she is incorrect, and should not have done it."

Tessa Jowell, the Shadow Minister for Women, came to Ms Harman's aid, however, saying: "As a parent and a

politician, if you have to face a choice between looking your son in the eye and saying that he can't go to the school that he wants to with his friends or face the disapproval of your colleagues the only course of action is to do what is best for your child."

Others who backed Ms Harman said that Mr Blair could not afford to lose her because it would send the wrong message to the public and she was a valuable member of the Shadow Cabinet.

Some agreed that her move was inconsistent with the party's position on grammar schools, but said it was the policy rather than Ms Harman that should go.

"The policy is a fudge," one moderniser said. "We cannot restrict choice."

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Britain 'powerless' to act

# Education chiefs send textbooks to 13-year-old bride

BY BILL FROST AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE Foreign Office said yesterday that it was virtually powerless to bring home a 13-year-old British girl who has gone through a marriage ceremony with an 18-year-old Turkish waiter she met on holiday.

Unless Sarah Cook's parents lodge a complaint or ask for assistance in bringing her back to Britain in Essex, neither the Foreign Office nor Essex Social Services can act. The council's education department has sent her textbooks.

The marriage is not legal but Sarah's parents, Jackie and Adrian Cook, have given their approval to the union and attended the religious service. A Turkish Embassy official in London said couples could not normally marry until they were 18. With parental consent, the age limit was 17 for boys and, with a judge's permission, 15 for girls.

Rona Iyabaya, a professor of Turkish law at the University of Ankara, said: "Under no circumstances can a 13-year-old child have sexual relations without it being deemed statutory rape under Turkish law." But he said it was unlikely police would act unless a complaint was made by the girl or her parents. The Turkish authorities could take action only if it was believed that Musa Komeagae, Sarah's partner, had abducted her.

Mr Komeagae, 18, proposed to Sarah three days after meeting her during her holiday in Antalya in southern Turkey. She was then 12 years old. When she returned to Britain the couple exchanged love letters and Sarah eventually persuaded her mother to take her back to Turkey.

Last October she flew back alone and admits this was the first time the couple had sex. They live with Mr Komeagae's parents in Kahrarmanmaraş.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "The responsibility for this minor rests with her parents and we would only act with their consent. We have offered them every assistance. If there was anything wrong under Turkish law our authorities over there would be involved, although the jurisdiction would probably rest with Turkey."

Mr and Mrs Cook were being guarded at their home yesterday by representatives of The Sun, which is reported to have paid £20,000 for the family's story. The couple refused to answer questions put to them by other newspaper reporters.

Earlier Mrs Cook, 39, defended her decision to allow the wedding to take place. "I don't care what people think about her marrying, because she is loved and happy," she said. Mr Cook, 42, said: "Musa is a great kid. He clearly adores her and looks after her."

Mike Leadbetter, director of



Snelling said Home Office had known

social services for Essex, said: "We shall be wanting to talk to the family as soon as possible. We shall ask them if they think this is right and proper for a 13-year-old. Apart from anything else, moving from England to Turkey, which is a different culture, is a big step even for an adult."

Social workers were made aware of Sarah's case last October when she failed to return to school after the half-term holiday. Richard Snelling, her headmaster at Tabor High, said: "We heard she had gone to Turkey to stay with a family, but no more. It is not surprising that we were anxious about the fact that she was not attending school."

"We alerted our education welfare officer and the social

services. They got in a tangle about what was and was not legal. I gather it went as far as the Home Office."

Mr Snelling, who said yesterday that Sarah's "marriage" had shocked the school, said that she returned home briefly at Christmas before travelling back to Turkey. "Clearly our view is that a 13-year-old should be receiving full-time education until she is 16 or 18. We are very concerned that she is not and have expressed that view to her parents."

"We were never told that her family had put her love life before her education. We are very worried — Sarah is so young."

Asked yesterday to explain why no earlier attempt had been made to bring Sarah back to Britain and prevent the marriage, Colin Davis, spokesman for Essex County Council, said there had been no reason for concern at first. "We understood she was living with a family. Sarah went of her own free will and there was no evidence that she was at any risk."

The county's education department has been sending school textbooks to the girl. "It is so she can keep up with her schooling," Mr Davis said.

The landlord of the public house used by Sarah's father has banned him from the premises. "It is disgraceful and the whole neighbourhood is outraged," Dave Wightman, who runs the Tabor Arms, said. "I don't know anyone who agrees with it."

On the slightly run-down and dreary estate where the Cooks live, neighbours and passers-by expressed shock and concern that Sarah had been allowed to marry a man whom she had first met while still only 12.

"Her parents must be absolutely mad," said one woman whose daughter is also a pupil at Tabor High.

The marriage has reportedly caused a family feud. Mr Cook's brother Peter has told the couple he thinks they are "mad" and that the marriage is "immoral".

The brothers, who work together, are no longer on speaking terms.

## Lorry driver fined £2,000 over girl's death

BY TIM JONES

AN AUSTRIAN lorry driver was fined £2,000 yesterday for three motoring offences after a newspaper delivery girl was knocked from her bicycle and killed. Amy Durling, 15, was hit by a 40-ton lorry last Thursday as she rode past a roundabout near her home in Herne Bay, Kent.

Steven Durling, 41, her father, said after the case: "I don't bear the driver any malice. I now know he didn't mean it. We are glad he admitted it. He didn't stand a chance. What would be the point of bearing a grudge? It won't change anything."

Canterbury Magistrates' Court was told that after the collision Herbert Lagler, 25, stopped his lorry several hundred yards beyond the roundabout

and removed the wreckage of the bicycle before continuing his journey. He was arrested later in the day in Wakefield where he told police that he was unaware that an accident had taken place.

Kevin Maloney, for the prosecution, said the accident happened before sunrise and it was not certain whether Amy was using her cycle lights. "None of the witnesses recall seeing the lights so it is not known one way or another because the lights were completely destroyed," he said.

Amy, he said, was observing the correct procedure as she entered the roundabout and signalled to leave it. "While crossing the roundabout at low speed the defendant's vehicle struck the rear wheel of the bicycle. The bicycle and the rider would appear to

have fallen to the ground and the lorry drove over the bicycle and Amy." Mr Maloney added: "It is not possible to say whether or not he should have been aware that a collision had taken place, although he should have been, as witnesses who were further away saw her on the roundabout."

Mr Maloney said Herr Lagler had arrived at the port of Ramsgate earlier in the day and was driving in convoy with another lorry. Mr Maloney said: "When he was arrested, he indicated that he had heard a noise from beneath the vehicle which he thought was a mechanical problem. He spoke to the second driver and they formed the view that the bicycle must have fallen from another vehicle."

Tim Townsend, for the defence, said Herr Lagler had suffered from a

momentary lapse of concentration. He said: "He failed to see the young lady although he was wide awake and well rested. But it was dark, and she was wearing dark clothing. One witness has referred to her as being a silhouette."

He added: "This is not a case of hit and run. The driver was extremely shocked to hear what he was alleged to have done and he has great sorrow for the young lady's family. Words will not adequately express his regret."

Herr Lagler, who sobbed in court, admitted careless driving, failing to stop after an accident and failing to report an accident. He was remanded in custody for 28 days or until the fines are paid.

Law, page 31



Victoria Legge-Bourke, the Prince's assistant, leaves her London home yesterday



The Princess of Wales with Patrick Jephson

## Princess's private secretary resigns

Continued from page 1

ber, only days after her Panorama interview. It was then that rumours started to circulate that she might resign.

Since then, storm clouds have continued to gather. Lawyers acting on behalf of Miss Legge-Bourke have written to the Princess demanding a retraction of "false allegations" she is said to have made. It was disclosed yesterday.

The Princess is alleged to have made hurtful comments about Miss Legge-Bourke at a staff Christmas party held by herself and the Prince.

Miss Legge-Bourke's solicitor, the leading libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck, is reported to have said: "I have written to Diana's solicitors Mishcon de Reya requesting that these false allegations be privately withdrawn and recognised to be totally untrue."

The comments, made dur-

ing the party at the Lanesborough Hotel in Mayfair, London, on December 14, were said to have left Miss Legge-Bourke close to tears, and so shocked that she slumped into a chair and had to be comforted by the Prince's valet.

Six days later Mr Carter-Ruck issued a statement to newspapers about unfounded allegations being circulated that were, he said, "a gross reflection" on Miss Legge-Bourke's moral character.

The incident appears to underline a growing tension between the women which began when Miss Legge-Bourke became a personal assistant to the Prince and a virtual nanny to the couple's children Prince William and Prince Harry. Miss Legge-Bourke, 30, refused to comment yesterday, as did Anthony Julius, the Princess's solicitor.

## German spy trio 'kept MI6 cash'

BY ROGER BOYES AND MICHAEL EVANS

THREE German spies are under investigation over allegations that they benefited financially from a covert operation to obtain material about the Russian Army which was shared with Britain's Secret Intelligence Service.

SIS, commonly known as MI6, is understood to be helping the German authorities after clearing up an initial suspicion that the three officers had been trying to sell secrets to Britain.

The three officers of the German BND — the equivalent to MI6 — worked in an undercover office in Nuremberg, collecting information about the Russian military forces in eastern Germany.

MI6 and BND have always

worked closely together and there was understood to be a long-standing arrangement under which material obtained by the German intelligence service about the Russian Army in eastern Germany was shared and jointly financed.

The BND officers are said to have failed to hand over money provided by MI6 for the cost of an intelligence operation which was to be shared between the services.

A court in South Africa ruled yesterday that Paul Greician, a former MI5 agent and director of the arms company Ordtech, should face an extradition hearing. He is wanted in America on charges of illegally selling artillery fuse components to Iraq.

## Householder in clear after killing

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A BUSINESSMAN is to escape prosecution over the death of an intruder during a fight at his home.

The Crown Prosecution Service announced yesterday that it would not be bringing any charge against the householder because of insufficient evidence.

Miklos Baugartner, 54, told police he had been attacked by Robert Ingham when he caught him inside his home at Ockbrook, Derbyshire, last month. Mr Ingham, 22, a joiner with no previous criminal convictions, died after the fight, which began inside the house and then spilt on to a patio.

Police officers found Mr Ingham, of Northampton, Derbyshire, slumped on the doorstep of Mr Baugartner's home with cuts to his face and a broken neck. A post-mortem

examination found that Mr Ingham died from a neck injury consistent with Mr Baugartner's description of the fight.

Mr Baugartner's wife Linda said yesterday that the family was pleased with the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service. "It is a big, big relief," she said.

A spokeswoman for the service said a police file had been submitted to its Derby office last week and Anna Zimand, the Derby Crown prosecutor, decided no action would be taken against Mr Baugartner. "The evidence has been considered and it is insufficient to justify any criminal proceedings against Mr Baugartner," the spokeswoman said.

After the incident Mr Baugartner, a businessman who lays tennis courts, broke

down in tears at a press conference. He said that the experience had left him scarred for life. He was treated in hospital for an injured hand and shock following the struggle.

Police investigating the incident, the latest in a number of cases in which homeowners have used force to protect their property, found signs of a forced entry at the house. Mr Baugartner was not arrested but spent three hours being questioned on New Year's Day about the incident. He said later: "I was terrified. I have broken down several times and am shaking like a leaf. I am frightened — my life is shattered."

The law allows the use of "reasonable force" to defend persons or property or to prevent a crime. But there have been differing views



Baugartner: incident 'had scarred his life'

among judges, politicians and the public about the definition of "reasonable".

Over the years, case law had defined that it may be reasonable to make a pre-emptive strike in self-defence.

An inquest into the death of Mr Ingham, a single man, will be held later this year.

## RUC man 'framed son for murders'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN RUC officer who shot his wife and two children as they lay sleeping blamed the killings on his dead son, a court was told yesterday.

Police found John Torney's wife, Linda, 33, daughter Emma, 10, and son John, 13, in their beds with a single gunshot wound to their heads. Mr Torney's revolver lay beside his son and the RUC man said the teenager had gone "clean mad" and killed his mother and sister before turning the gun on himself.

But Belfast Crown Court was told that the 40-year-old officer was infatuated with another woman and unhappy with his marriage.

Torney denies murdering his wife and children at their home in Cookstown in Decem-

ber 1994. He gave police two notes in which his son allegedly apologised for his actions, blaming arguments between his parents and himself and his sister over the family dog Sooby, which had been given away.

However, John Creaney, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Torney had wanted to start a new life with a fellow woman officer.

If Mr Torney were right in what he claimed, Mr Creaney said, then he was "the most sinned against man you can ever imagine".

But if he were the killer as alleged, then "he was capable of the most diabolical enterprise, and the most diabolical framing of a child". The trial continues.

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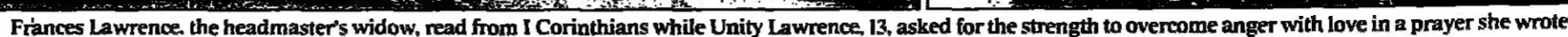
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**BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT**

Knife attacks had continued on military-style knives and swords.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, welcomed the Government's legislative plans but suggested other measures including a ban on the sale of knives to those under 16, controls on advertising by mail-order, and bans on military-style knives and swords.



**BY DOMINIC KENNEDY**

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with murdering Mr Lawrence and a boy aged 14 is accused of conspiracy to wound another 14-year-old boy.

**BY A STAFF REPORTER**

**BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT**

PC Andrew McCallum said that during the struggle Mr Lapite had attempted to bite him. "I kicked him in the head because I believed I was going to be subjected to a violent attack. I attempted to cuff his left hand but the man went back, kicking me in the chest, then he started to struggle. He was a very strong man."

An HIV-positive man who posed as a doctor was jailed for six months. Christopher Payne, 33, who was briefly a nurse in his native South Africa, gave vitamin injections, antidepressants, antibiotics and creams to up to 30 people. Payne, of Notting Hill Gate, London, admitted obtaining property by deception, common assault and theft. His barrister, Timothy Banks, told Southwark Crown Court he had acted from the highest moral motives. "Having been diagnosed HIV positive... he was an excellent counsellor and a good listener."

## Writer's libel win

The writer Nigel Watts accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages in the High Court from *The Sunday Times* over its suggestion that he had plagiarised another author's unpublished manuscript for his first novel *The Life Game*, which won the 1989 Betty Trask award.

## TV case deferred

The High Court reserved judgment on whether the Independent Television Commission's award of the licence for a fifth television channel to Channel 5 Broadcasting was unreasonable. Virgin Television claimed CB5 should not have been allowed to increase its bid after the deadline.

**Sir Edward Heath**

□ Sir Edward Heath asks us to make clear that, contrary to a headline on a report (December 11), he continues his wholehearted backing for the Prime Minister, even though, in the event of a future Labour government, he would support that administration on those European issues on which he believed it merited support.

**Islamic Dawaa Party**

□ The Islamic Dawaa Party, which has an office in London, has no connection with a similarly named group accused by Philippines police of plotting to kill diplomats in Manila (report, January 10).

[illegible]

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## مَكْرَاهَاتُ الْأَصْلِ

## Future sports and arts stars to be given lottery cash

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BUDDING sports stars are to receive National Lottery grants worth thousands of pounds to fund their training. Would-be artists and performers will also benefit from a government drive to promote individual talent and excellence.

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, said yesterday: "We have just seen Emma Thompson winning her Golden Globe. We now want to help the stars of the future. We are going for gold."

The lottery "talent funds", to be administered by the Arts and Sports Councils, would benefit young people who wanted to become part of Britain's sporting and artistic elite, she said.

The grants, ranging from several hundred pounds to thousands, could be available as early as April, in time to contribute to the training costs of Britain's Olympic squad.

Kevin Hickey, technical director of the British Olympic Association, said the timing was excellent. "We are moving into a situation where the facilities and funding for elite competitors will allow them to fulfil their potential."

Derek Casey, chief executive of the Sports Council, said that the real beneficiaries would be

the teams representing Britain in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002.

"If you look at the investment in talented youngsters in different parts of the world, it is fair to say that large-scale investment in the long term produces higher standards and more gold medals," he said.

John James, chairman of the Lawn Tennis Association, also welcomed the talent funds. Although the initiative was unlikely to produce a British Wimbledon champion in the next year or two, it would "hopefully do so within a decade".

Individual lottery grants or bursaries worth a minimum of £2,000 will soon become available from the Millennium Commission, which last year set aside £100 million to help people to study, travel and improve their communities. But until now Sports and Arts lottery grants have been available only to capital projects, such as constructing and restoring buildings.

While the scheme will allow revenue funding, such as investment in people, it will not permit arts and sports bodies to subsidise their day-to-day running costs, such as building maintenance.

Sir David Putnam, chairman of the National Film and Television School and a member of the Arts Council's lottery board, said the talent funds represented "the first step in making the lottery more user-friendly". He added that the grants could greatly assist in training Britain's next generation of film-makers.

Education authority grants for students at the school are discretionary. "This could stabilise a grant situation that has, at best, been chaotic in the last decade," Sir David said.

A spokeswoman for the Arts Council said the talent funds could also be used to help dance and drama students,

who do not receive local education authority grants as of right.

Mrs Bottomley also wants the funds to be used to finance school trips to the theatre and to help touring arts companies, as well as to support big sporting events.

She confirmed that she will be holding discussions with arts organisations about creating "a stabilisation fund", under which cash-starved companies could receive significant amounts of money over several years to cover costs such as marketing advice, which contribute to long-term financial stability but are not easily available.

In a separate move, the Heritage Secretary defended the size of National Lottery jackpots after it emerged that this week's prize is likely to reach at least £40 million. Cutting the size of jackpots would only cut the cash available for good causes, she said.



Emma Thompson: "horribly gratified" with her award for best screenplay

## Glittering prize makes Emma an Oscar favourite

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

WITH a Golden Globe for her screenplay for *Sense and Sensibility*, Emma Thompson has confirmed her reputation in Hollywood as a star of many talents and has become hot favourite for a similar trophy on Oscar night.

Sir Anthony Hopkins was disappointed in the Best Actor category, which was won by Nicolas Cage for *Leaving Las Vegas*. Otherwise the evening that has become a dress rehearsal for the Academy Awards was a good one for Britain, with *Sense and Sensibility* the only film to win more than one prize and Sean Connery receiving a special award for a career that has spanned four decades.

In her acceptance speech at the Beverly Hills ceremony on Sunday, Ms Thompson called the award "horribly gratifying" and said: "I'm bloated with pride." She also suggested to an audience thick with studio executives that Miss Austen was owed vast sums in posthumous royalties.

The three-hour ceremony

boasted an impressive turnout of celebrities, including Sharon Stone, winner of the Best Actress award for *Casino*, and Mel Gibson, a surprise victor in the Best Director category for his medieval epic *Braveheart*.

Sean Connery was also on hand to receive the Cecil B. De Mille award and said: "I've travelled to scores of exotic places, met many interesting people, kissed dozens of beautiful women and actually been very well paid for it."

*Sense and Sensibility* won the evening's most prestigious prize, for Best Drama, while *Babe*, the Australian morality tale about a pig that becomes a sheepdog, won in the Best Comedy category.

The failure of any single film to sweep the board leaves the Oscar race wide open. *Sense and Sensibility*, which had six Golden Globe nominations, could win at least as many in the Academy Award nominations next month. The Prince of Wales will attend the film's British premiere in London on February 21.



Bottomley: she wants Britons to go for gold

## Law Society chief accuses staff of blocking reforms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS' new leaders accused the profession's establishment yesterday of hindering reforms. Robert Sayer, deputy vice-president of the Law Society, said that he and Martin Mears, the president, were being "blocked every inch of the way" from implementing a platform of changes on which they were elected last year.

Mr Sayer cited their plans to stamp out cut-price conveyancing, to review how the society spends its £51 million budget and to limit numbers of trainees joining the 65,000-strong profession so that they match places available.

The simmering hostility between the new leadership, elected last summer in the first contested elections for nearly 40 years, and the society's staff and council has erupted over the conveyancing issue.

Mr Sayer proposed to the council before Christmas that conveyancers who consistently charged fees below a minimum guideline should not be covered by the profession's indemnity insurance but should have to find cover on the open market.

The meeting agreed that the proposals, with other suggestions, be put to the profession in a consultation paper. Yes-

terday Mr Sayer said that not only had senior officials insisted that they should draft the consultation paper, but that the draft paid only lip service to his proposals.

He said: "It is too late now to change this paper, which is completely alien to my original proposals. It is being presented as a *fait accompli*. The entire debate within council might just as well have never taken place."

Another example was his proposed review of the Law Society's finances. Mr Sayer said. He had suggested that consultants examine spending and consult staff. "I was then told this could not be done and that staff were not authorised to talk to outsiders and that this was not to be allowed."

John Hayes, the society's secretary-general, denied that staff had an agenda of their own. "The tenor of the council meeting before Christmas was that they wanted a more balanced paper putting the options and this is what the staff has done."

"The office holders have a very ambitious agenda and people will be able to study for themselves what they have achieved, and if not, why not."

Law, pages 31, 33

## BR locks train doors after coupling snaps

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ALL connecting doors on hundreds of new commuter train carriages have been locked because of the risk of one becoming detached with passengers on board.

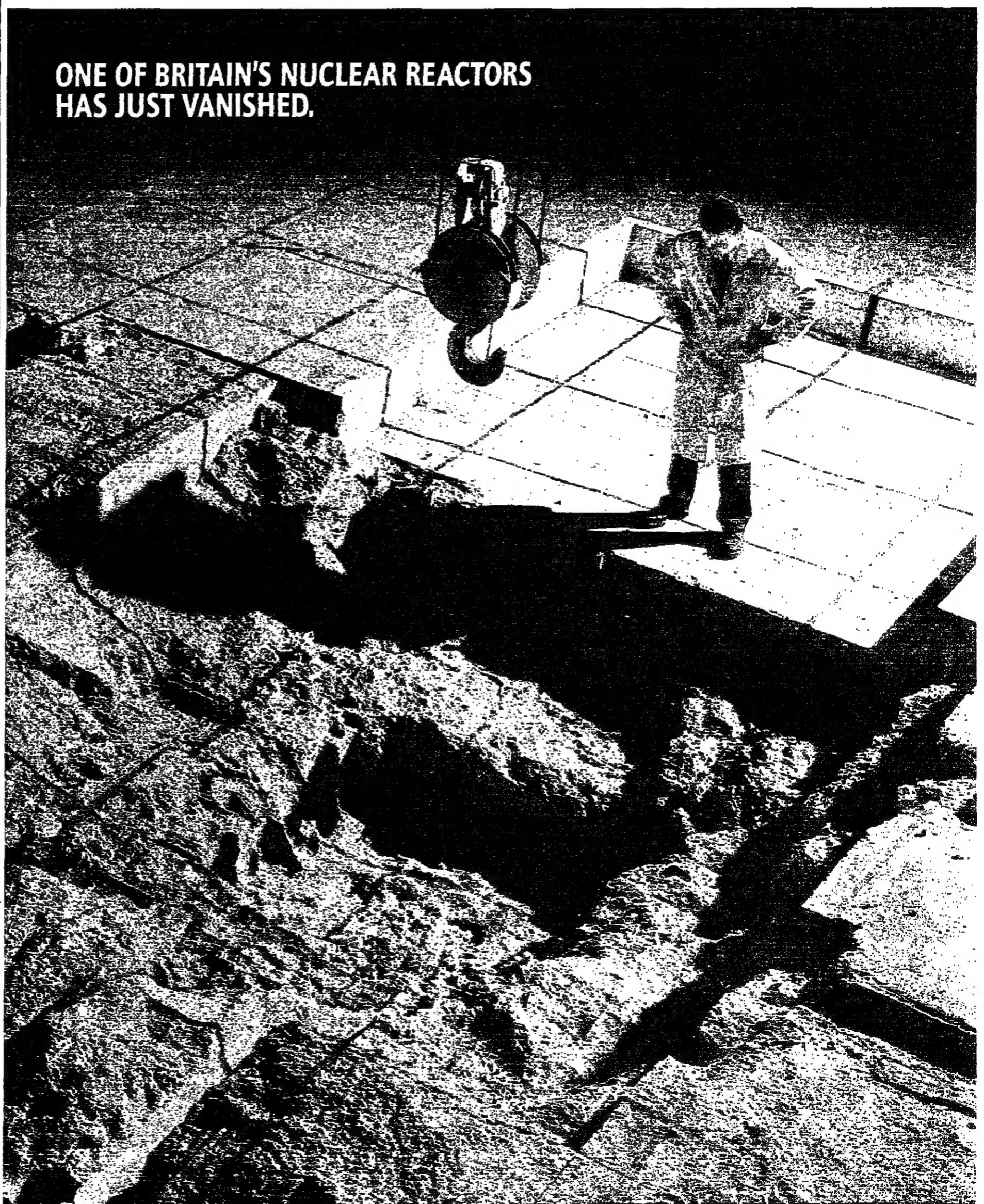
British Rail has ordered an urgent safety inspection on Newmarket trains operated by South Eastern, after cracks were found in the metal couplings that hold together the carriages. The trains will stay in service while checks are made.

The metal fatigue was identified on 97 trains after a coupling sheared during chunting at the Slade Green depot in southeast London on January 13. It was initially thought to be limited to trains

that had completed more than 80,000 miles but subsequent ultrasonic tests found that some new trains were also affected.

A spokesman for South Eastern said passengers were not in danger. They could communicate with the driver in an emergency. In the unlikely event of a carriage becoming detached, the rest of the train would automatically be brought to a halt.

However, some South Eastern drivers said the trains should be withdrawn while tests were being made. "It is a bit like sending an airliner into the sky knowing that one of its wings is likely to drop off," said one.



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## Defence Ministry admits negligence

## Naval worker with brain damage wins £280,000 payout

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A ROYAL NAVY fitter who says he suffered brain damage from exposure to a strong solvent was awarded £280,000 compensation in an out-of-court settlement yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence admitted negligence in exposing Tony Bradshaw, 57, to five times the permitted level of methyl ethyl ketone (MEK). But it did not accept that this had led to his speech, coordination and mobility difficulties.

Mr Bradshaw, 57, had been fighting since 1989 to prove that his condition, cerebellar ataxia, was related to his work. The MoD will have to pay five-figure costs on top of the out-of-court settlement.

John Allen, of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, which backed Mr Bradshaw's case, called for a nationwide ban on MEK, which he said was used extensively in industry. He said there could be many others suffering ill-effects from the solvent, a strong substitute for white spirit. "Mr Bradshaw's life has been torn apart by MEK due to the MoD's failure to limit his exposure to it," he added.

Mr Bradshaw, who is married with a 31-year-old daughter, was a fitter at the Royal Naval Armaments Depot at Gosport, Hampshire, between 1972 and 1986. He said he used MEK regularly to strip Seacat surface-to-air missiles.

"I used to keep the chemical



Bradshaw: blamed illness on solvent

at work in dried milk tins and old coffee jars that my wife saved for me," he said. "While working with the MoD I was never given any warning at all that MEK might be toxic."

"I worked in a small room about six metres square and the smell of MEK was vile, but the door was supposed to be kept shut for security reasons. It was especially busy during the Falklands War when I worked a lot of overtime using MEK to remove the sealant on Seacat missiles."

Mr Bradshaw, of Portsmouth, became aware of an illness "creeping up on him" and by the early 1980s his speech began to slur and he found it difficult to write his signature. He had a rubber stamp made to save him having to sign his name.

His wife Sheila, 56, said she was not aware of a serious problem for some time because he was an independent man who kept things to

himself so that she would not be worried.

In 1985 Mr Bradshaw was diagnosed as suffering from cerebellar ataxia, which can be caused by excessive glue sniffing. "My brain tells me to do something and my body simply won't respond. I find myself fumbling when I try to do things and I am simply not co-ordinated. I feel as if a brick wall has come down on my life," he said.

"No money in the world can make up for me not being able to do my own DIY, get underneath a car or even tie my own shoelaces."

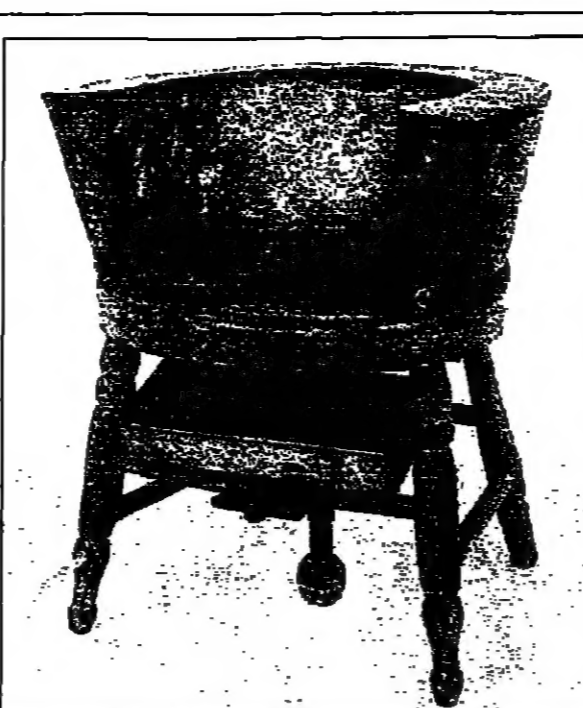
Tom Jones, his solicitor, said: "He deserves every penny of his compensation. His exposure to this chemical has restricted his mobility and caused slurring of speech. He will never work again."

Mr Jones said that other cases were expected to come to light. "There are more out there."

Although his case had taken more than six years to settle, Mr Bradshaw said he did not feel bitter towards the MoD. He has established a local organisation to help people who have similar medical conditions.

Professor Anthony Seaton, head of the department of environmental and occupational medicine at Aberdeen University, said he had encountered two other cases where excessive exposure to MEK had led to mental deterioration.

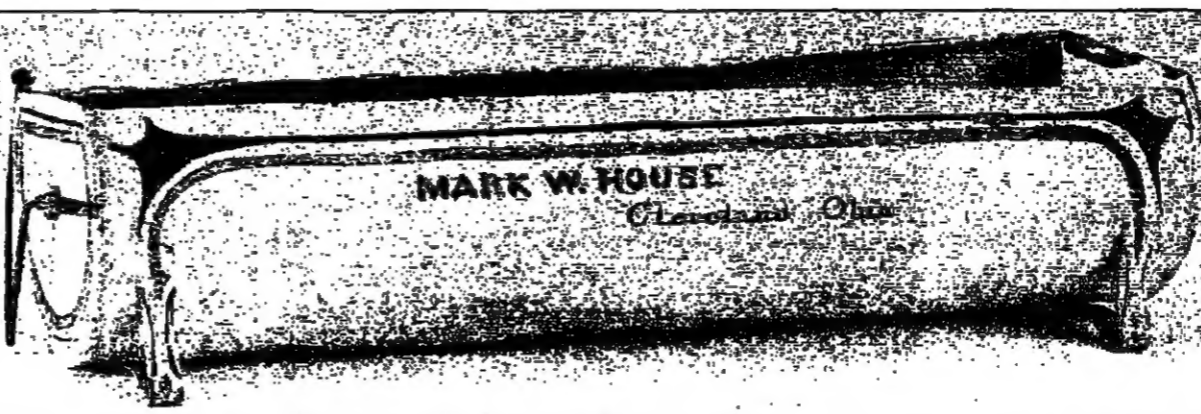
The MoD would not comment on the settlement.



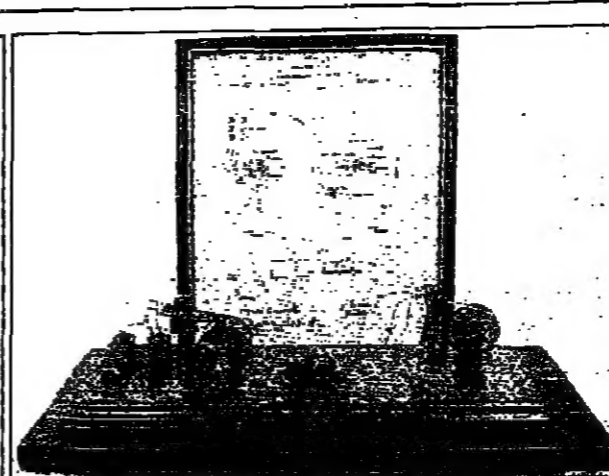
The optimistically titled "life-saving chair"



Keep a cool head: the rotating blast-producing chair



The 1862 model for an allegedly therapeutic device intended to pass an electric current through bathwater



The automatic telegraph invented by Edison, right, is among the important items

## What am I bid for these mothers of invention?

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ZANY contraptions and Heath Robinson-style inventions that their creators hoped would improve the world are to be auctioned today.

Models for an 1873 exercise machine that looks like an instrument of torture; an 1880 conical-shaped dust-collector; and an 1873 carpet-sweeper largely made up of a box and some string are among the weird and wonderful gadgets to be sold by Christie's.

All were submitted to the American Patent Office between 1836 and 1899, and come complete with the drawings and specification sheets that also had to be provided. Each of the 200 items is being sold separately, with estimates ranging from £200 to £50,000; the entire collection is expected to fetch up to £300,000.

Some worked, and are not dissimilar to today's models. Others did not. A few, such as a bath that could send electric current through the water, would have been downright dangerous.

In most cases, the inven-

tion was not quite as ingenious as it seemed: in 1881, Alphonso Wilson of New York came up with a chair for saving lives at sea. If a ship sank, passengers could leap into the chairs, jump overboard and a flotation tank fitted underneath would ensure they were buoyed by the water.

At least, that was the idea. Tom Rose, a director of Christie's at South Kensington — who catalogued the items for its New York sale today — said: "It was totally and utterly impracticable. You would have broken your back jumping into the sea with that. You'd have sat there bobbing on the ocean with your broken back." The contraption is expected to make between £3,000 and £4,000.

Bizarre but perhaps brilliant was the 1858 rotating blast-producing chair by Leopold Richard Breisch, another New Yorker. A model of mahogany, brass and leather created an individual air-conditioning system: the chair operated two bellows to blow cool air to the sitter's

head. It is expected to fetch between £4,000 and £6,000.

Some of the inventions were by Londoners: William Richards's 1871 improvement to chimney pots and the 1875 model for the improvement in gas-burners by Albert Silber.

The collection was formed by Cliff Petersen, an American retired aeronautics consultant, who in 1979 bought 800 crates of patent models, many of which had not been touched since 1923 when the US Government stopped storing them.

Mr Petersen had been instrumental in saving some 40,000 which were about to be discarded because "no one was interested in them". He eventually gave 30,000 to the American Patent Foundation and kept 4,500 of those that most intrigued him.

Mr Rose said: "There is an amazing cross-section of models in terms of quality. Some are very crude, some beautifully made. They cover an enormous area of human activity. Each one is a unique piece of history."

Leading the sale is the patent model of an 1881 carboniser for light bulb filaments by the inventor of the light bulb, Thomas A. Edison. There is also one of his earlier inventions, the automatic telegraph. They are each estimated to fetch some £50,000. As the catalogue notes, Edison holds the record for the most patents issued to a single individual, 1,093. Among other important pieces is the model of a catamaran designed in 1877 by Nathaniel G. Herreshoff, who built many boats that became contenders for the America's Cup.

## Bypass protesters accused of cutting brake pipe

By ADRIAN LEE

PROTESTERS against the Newbury bypass were accused of using increasingly sinister tactics yesterday after a brake pipe was apparently cut on a coach carrying security guards.

As work on clearing the route went into its third week, the number of guards protecting workmen rose to at least 500. They now outnumber activists by about four to one. Campaigners admitted they were unable to stop work. More than 10 per cent of the route has been cleared.

The 50-seater coach was surrounded by 20 people at Chiveley services on the M4. In the past few days protesters

have urinated on guards, embedded nails in trees and "spiked" trees with metal wires, said the Highways Agency, which condemned the violent change in protesters' methods.

"Spiking is a deliberate and nasty tactic which causes chainsaws to snarl. It can be lethal for the operators because the chainsaws can come apart and maul the workmen's arms quite badly. We also take the attack on the coach very seriously. Lives could have been endangered."

The agency, responsible for building the £100 million road in Berkshire, said the level of protest had tailed off but a

"campaign of intimidation" was still being waged against guards and contractors. "We accept people's right to protest but we had hoped it would remain non-violent," said a spokeswoman.

Simon Festing, transport campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said protesters had abandoned attempts to break through cordons along the 8½-mile route. "There are large numbers of security guards. I estimate 600."

He said some of the 200 protesters arrested so far were concerned about the legal implications of further direct action and the protest was more passive. There was one arrest yesterday as work continued at two sites.

Campaigners have founded more camps along the route and there are now at least 13. The Highways Agency goes to the High Court on Friday to try to win possession orders, which would lead to the bailiffs going into four camps.

The cost of evicting the campaigners from scores of makeshift treestop homes, by using a team of bailiffs, will add to the security bill.

## Tories drop council house opt-out scheme

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are abandoning one of Baroness Thatcher's main housing initiatives after fewer than 1,000 council tenants benefited at a cost of more than £4 million. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, is demanding an end to the "tenants' choice" scheme to regenerate run-down council estates that formed part of the Tories' election-winning manifesto in 1987.

In eight years only 981 council tenants out of a possible six million have taken up the option to transfer control of their estates from local councils to other landlords or independent tenants' associations.

Ministers have conceded that the scheme, which requires closely monitored residents' ballots and a complex

and costly legal procedure, has failed to capture the public's imagination and is proving an unnecessary burden on councils.

Nick Raynsford, Labour's housing spokesman, yesterday tabled Commons questions to Mr Gummer and to David Curry, the Housing Minister, demanding to know details of the costs of the programme. He also suggested that the National Audit Office should consider investigating the costs of the various opt-out schemes.

Tory ministers believed tenants' choice would prompt a mass exodus of householders frustrated at the activities of Labour councils, but the only sizeable opt-out of council control has taken place in the Tory borough of Westminster. It took nearly four years for 918 residents from the Waltham and Elgin estates in Paddington, west

London, to opt out of the council's control after their estates were threatened with sale to the private sector.

The only other successful opt-out involving more than ten homes took place when 58 Holtsfield householders decided to end South Buckinghamshire District Council's control of their estate.

Some £1.7 million was spent on a plan to set up a tenants' choice scheme in Torbay, Devon, but 1,800 residents threw out the proposals after a protracted legal battle with the local Conservative council.

Mr Raynsford said: "This is a salutary lesson for any housing minister that they can pass legislation to their hearts' content but, if it doesn't have the support of the public, they are simply whistling in the wind."

The scheme ran alongside the con-

troverial Housing Action Trust programme, under which some councils were forced to relinquish control of the worst-run council estates. It was one of the first pieces of legislation to be passed in Lady Thatcher's final term in office.

Mr Gummer will appeal to MPs next week to repeal the 1988 legislation that set up tenants' choice, which he says is costing the housing corporations that run the scheme more than £1 million a year, on top of the costs to local authorities. The repeal of the law appears as a short section in the Housing Bill published last week.

The housing reforms were largely the work of John Patten, Lady Thatcher's Housing Minister, who saw them as a way of reducing the power of councils, particularly those run by Labour.

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## Hillwalker search 'caused by a bilk'

By ROBIN YOUNG

A SEARCH for a missing hillwalker in Scotland may have been triggered by a trickster dodging a £40 hotel bill, police said yesterday.

The missing man, in his 20s, booked into the Royal Hotel in Kingussie, near Inverness, for three nights under the name James Kimmance, and gave his address as "Jersey, Channel Islands".

He set off on a supposed hill walking expedition early on Saturday morning, leaving two possible routes and an estimated time for his return to the hotel. When he failed to come back the alarm was raised and mountain rescue teams and an RAF helicopter were called out.

The rescue hunt, which has cost an estimated £50,000, was abandoned yesterday "for lack of information" after police had checked the man's hotel room and found nothing but two pairs of underpants.

Inspector Willie Maclean, spokesman of Northern Constabulary, said: "There are several lines of inquiry being followed. One is that he might still be on the hills but another is that he was simply dodging paying his bill. Nothing is being ruled out, but it makes it doubly difficult that we have

not been able to confirm the man's identity, or locate any next of kin."

Inquiries in Jersey failed to find anyone called Kimmance. There is no such listing in the island telephone directory, police have no record, and Mr Kimmance is unknown to the Jersey Climbing Club.

It also transpired that in contradiction to his story of going hillwalking on Saturday, the man had told regulars at a pub in Kingussie on Friday night that he would be driving to Glasgow the next day to fly back to Jersey.

Bernard Justice, owner of the Royal Hotel, said: "It is possible that this man was just out to bilk us. That is a regular occurrence."

But he said it would be galling if the man had put lives at risk to save the cost of two nights' bed and breakfast. "If that is the case I hope he feels good about himself."

John Allan, of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team, which was involved in Sunday's search, said: "If all this turns out to have been a false alarm we will be very angry. My team of volunteers were placed in a potentially dangerous situation by this man."

## Bogus schoolboy invites film deal

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE 32-year-old failed medical student who posed as a schoolboy of 17 has begun talks with the producer of *Rob Roy* about filming his story.

Brian Mackinnon, who used the alias Brandon Lee to dupe teachers at Bearsden Academy, his former school in Glasgow, hopes to pay for medical studies abroad from the proceeds. He is in discussions with Peter Broughan, a former BBC producer and editor who set up Bronco Films in Glasgow. He chose Mr Broughan because he was impressed with the integrity of *Rob Roy*.

A spokeswoman for Bronco

Films said that talks with Mr Mackinnon and his agent were at an early stage. Mr Broughan is likely to seek American backing for the film. He won a Scottish tourism award for persuading Hollywood to make *Rob Roy*, which was filmed largely in Scotland.

It is understood that Mr Mackinnon is contemplating publishing his autobiography under the provisional title *Heart and Soul*. His exploits attracted worldwide media attention last September.

When Mr Mackinnon went back to school he achieved enough Highers to gain a place to study medicine at Dundee University. He lost the place when his identity was revealed and it became known that he had failed to complete a degree in medicine at Glasgow University.

Mr Mackinnon feels that it would be difficult for him to gain a place to read medicine at a British university but is considering studying abroad. "I'd go to Outer Mongolia if they spoke English and offered me the chance to practise medicine," he said. "The worst of this is that I've done nothing illegal. I just want to help people."



Mackinnon: impressed by Rob Roy producer

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Harman's action condemned as 'kick in the teeth from a woman who should know better'

# Activists dismayed by MP's school decision

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LABOUR Party activists in Harriet Harman's Peckham constituency reacted with anger and dismay yesterday to her decision to send her son to a selective grammar school.

Councillors in Peckham, in the south London borough of Southwark, accused Ms Harman of "kicking local schools in the teeth" and said that she did not consult them about educational standards there before deciding to send her 11-year-old son Joseph to St Olave's in Orpington, Kent.

The local party in Orpington has sent a letter of protest to Ms Harman and an emergency motion is expected to be tabled for Labour's general management committee meeting tomorrow night.

The attack on Ms Harman, Shadow Health Secretary and one of the borough's three MPs, was led by Mary Ellery, 53, a party member in



Worsley: Harman in an invidious position

Peckham for 30 years. Mrs Ellery, a councillor and former mayor of Southwark, said: "I can't believe that she has done this. I am proud of the fact my four grown-up children, and my grandchildren, went to the local state schools. They all did well. Our

schools have improved immensely but this is a kick in the teeth from a woman who can afford to send her children elsewhere and who should know better. She is saying: the schools are good enough for Peckham kids but not for mine. It just looks awful for all the hard working teachers in our schools."

Southwark, one of the poorest three boroughs in Britain, has languished for years at the bottom of the national schools league table, although last year it rose five places. William Penn, Ms Harman's neighbourhood comprehensive school, is a mile from her home. It is next to the bottom of Southwark's league table with only 30 per cent of pupils leaving with a single GCSE pass last summer.

Mrs Ellery, chairman of the education and leisure sub-committee, said: "But they

have not improved enough for our own MP. What can I tell constituents when they come to my surgery and complain about our schools?"

Anne Worsley, chairman of Southwark's education committee, said that Ms Harman had never consulted her about the quality of local state schools. She told a press conference at Southwark town hall: "I regret that we were not able to offer the full range of education for which the child was suited. She [Ms Harman] has made that choice, which I regret."

Ms Worsley said that it was the same choice which many other parents had made in despair at the poor performance of the borough's schools. However, she supported the right of Labour frontbenchers to make personal choices about their own children.

She added: "Labour politicians are in an invidious position. Harriet Harman has chosen as a parent. If she chooses to send her child outside the borough this reflects the system of state schools throughout the London area. It is a situation we have lived with for a number of years. Quite a few parents have chosen outside the borough. I would not have."

Jeremy Fraser, the leader of the council, described Ms Harman as an excellent constituency MP who had raised a number of education issues with him. But he would not comment on her decision.

Ron Huzzard, assistant secretary of Orpington Labour Party, wrote to Ms Harman yesterday. "She should resign from the Shadow Cabinet and national executive," he said. "We feel very strongly about it. St Olave's is excluded from the vast majority of Orpington people. I am amazed that a Labour member of the Shadow Cabinet could even contemplate sending their child there."

Yesterday Ms Harman was under a virtual siege at her south London home. The MP, who is apparently suffering from flu, is refusing to leave her home. Her husband, Jack Dromey, a senior official for the Transport and General Workers' Union, remained with her. Ms Harman made clear to the hordes of reporters and photographers outside that she had enough provisions to last for three weeks. She has protested to the Press Complaints Commission after photographers allegedly "surged" towards Joseph as he left for school yesterday.

Leading article, page 15



Jack Dromey, Ms Harman's husband, at their south London home yesterday

## Hattie and Jack, new Labour's model couple

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

HATTIE and Jack Harman, as they are known to their friends, should be the ideal new Labour couple.

She is the middle-class daughter of a lawyer and a Harley Street doctor who gives polish to Labour's front bench. He is the articulate son of a poor Irish immigrant couple who looks like a Stalinist hooligan. But he is actually "rather cute and very acute" and is now the acceptable face of the trade union movement.

Together they have managed to nurture two extremely competitive careers and three children, Harry, Joseph and Amy. They discuss the minimum wage over the washing up at their home in Herne

Hill, south London, and take it in turns to babysit.

As one Shadow Cabinet colleague says: "They give street cred to each other because she comes from this rather posh background and he is one of the workers. They make Tony Blair's ideal knitting pattern couple."

The pair met while he was a bearded militant working for the Brent trades council and she was a young solicitor at the Brent Law Centre. He was making trouble on the Grunwick picket line and she was crusading for civil liberties and sex equality.

Ms Harman was educated at St Paul's girls' School and York University. She was elected for the impoverished

Labour seat of Peckham in the by-election of 1982 as a left-of-centre candidate. Most voters in her constituency live in council houses.

In the House she was fearlessly feminist, breast-feeding in front of colleagues and adamant that her children came first, but her colleagues say that she is extremely hard working.

Many male Labour MPs view her with deep suspicion and believe she was out of her depth on economics when she was made Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Old Labour saw it that she lost her Shadow Cabinet job but Tony Blair rates her extremely highly and has made her Shadow Health Secretary.

## How top parents bowed to party pressure

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

WHEN Harold Wilson was leader of the Labour Party in the 1960s he would sometimes drop his sons off at their independent school on his way to Westminster. Three decades later, Labour MPs have to think more carefully about sending their children even to some kinds of state schools if they are to avoid charges of political hypocrisy.

Harriet Harman is the latest in a long line of Labour luminaries to face the dilemma of whether to follow the spirit of party policy or to select the best available school. Several members of Wilson's Cabinet altered their plans when education became a sensitive political issue and few have challenged comprehensive orthodoxy since.

There was little or no criticism of Wilson's choice of University College School, north London, despite his government's championing of comprehensive education. But two of his senior colleagues, Tony Benn and Roy Jenkins, moved their children from the independent sector to Holland Park School, west London, perhaps the most fashionable state school of the day.

John Vaisey, one of Wilson's closest advisers, chose Eton, as did C.P. Snow, in his days as a Labour minister. Lord Snow memorably justified his decision as necessary to introduce his son to the type of people he would work with in later life.

Others exercised an early version of selection by mortgage. Richard Crossman, as Education Secretary, avoided inner London schools when his family moved to their country home in Oxfordshire during the week.

MPs' choice of school became a national issue in the late 1970s when Shirley Williams came under pressure to move her daughter from The Godolphin and Latimer School, west London, which was choosing to become independent rather than go comprehensive. She, too, opted for Holland Park.

During Labour's lurch to the left, few MPs were prepared to risk a school which might prove controversial. One exception was Kevin McNamara, the party's spokesman on Ireland, who survived a deselection motion after refusing to remove his sons from Ampleforth College. They had won music scholarships and he argued that the combination of Catholic education and specialist music teaching was not available at state schools near by.

Opting out has presented Labour politicians with new obstacles, as Tony Blair discovered when he chose the London Oratory School for his son Euan. Although party policy does not preclude grant-maintained schools, Labour is committed to abolishing the system in its present form.

Peter Hain, whose children attend the grant-maintained Elliott School in Wandsworth, south London, said yesterday that his eldest son had been at the school for five years before it opted out against his wishes.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is politically beyond reproach: only 2 per cent of candidates achieved the equivalent of five O levels when his children first attended their comprehensive school in his Sheffield constituency.

## Inner-city comprehensive and its celebrated rival

BY DAVID CHARTER  
AND LEXIA LINTON

HARRIET HARMAN's son Joseph will be able to try his hand at Eton Fives, a sport usually associated with a few independent schools, when he arrives at St Olave's next September.

The grant-maintained grammar school for boys in Orpington, Kent, which has a variety of sporting facilities including an indoor swimming pool and squash courts, is a national force at fives and recently recorded victories against the founders of the game, Eton.

The contrast with facilities at the nearest school to the home of the Shadow Health Secretary and MP for Peckham could not be greater. William Penn comprehensive has no playing fields or swimming pool on its cramped site in Dulwich, south London.

Having been classified as failing by school inspectors, William Penn school is working on an action plan to turn around a dismal performance in some subject areas, but has not been helped by run-down concrete and glass accommodation.

Lloyd Marshall, the head teacher, said: "As an inner-city comp we are trying to do our best for the children. The children come in from wide and far, and many come from difficult circumstances. We have to work with what we have, and in doing that we do



St Olave's, the school chosen by Harriet Harman for her son, and below, the local one she decided against



set targets for raising the performance of all children. We are not in a position to select anybody."

Most of the children are from working-class and ethnic minority backgrounds at William Penn; the sons of prosperous middle-class parents dominate the roll of St Olave's. Last summer, William Penn's steel band played for Princess Margaret at a garden party.

John Hall, who has two children, lives 200 yards from William Penn's school gates. He said: "I understand Harriet Harman's dilemma. I send

my children to another school. But if a Labour frontbencher thinks the school is not good enough for her kids then you deduce from that they are not good enough for anyone."

Places at St Olave's are oversubscribed by six to one. A £15 million building programme is helping to expand the entry to four classes next year.

Old boys include Baron Hill of Luton, a former BBC chairman, Sir Alan Marre, a former Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, and the actor Roy Marsden.

## Mother's choice puts political career on the line

Tory party managers were smiling yesterday for the first time in a long while. It may not last long. But, for the moment, Tony Blair faces a serious test of the credibility of his "new" Labour approach.

Harriet Harman's decision to send one of her sons to a selective grammar school has touched the most sensitive Labour nerves. An attachment to comprehensive education has been one of the strongest held beliefs of many Labour members, lasting far longer than support for public ownership or clause four. It was the centrepiece of the egalitarianism of the Labour revisionists who came of age in the 1960s and 1970s and whose intellectual mentor was Anthony

Crosland. Their flame is still kept alive by Roy Hattersley, in rare alliance with the traditional Labour Left. This alignment across right-left divisions creates particular difficulties for Mr Blair.

The producer interests of education are also strongly represented in the party: many Labour activists are teachers and school governors. Consequently, no issue has created greater anguish within constituency parties over the past few years than the decisions that many party members have faced as parents in local ballots on whether schools should become grant-maintained.

Labour has shifted towards an uneasy acceptance of greater independence for existing opted-out schools within an overall frame-

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

work set by local education authorities. By far the most passionate debate at last autumn's Labour conference was over education. The leadership line only prevailed thanks to David Blunkett's assurance that the party would continue to oppose selection by examination or by interview, though with a fudge over the future of existing grammar schools.

Education is one of those rare issues where MPs can face a direct personal conflict between personal and party responsibilities. On most questions, such as a single currency or rail privatisation, the personal

behaviour of an MP is irrelevant. But, on education, and to a lesser extent health, a conflict can exist between a parent's desire to secure the best possible schooling for their child and the policy commitments of their party. In many parts of the country, there is no problem since the quality of local state education or health provision is high. But that is not true in parts of inner-London.

Many comprehensive schools near where Ms Harman lives have serious disciplinary problems and have appalling academic results.

MPs who are parents can face a choice of following the party's policy line or putting the interests of their children first. Mr Blair's decision to send one of his sons to an opted-out, though comprehensive, school has caused him more personal difficulties within the party than any other matter, even though his decision was within the letter of Labour's shifting policy.

Ms Harman faces an even more acute dilemma. She is putting her career at risk by putting her children first.

The risks are real. She is suspected by many of the more traditionally minded male MPs for being a metropolitan trendy. She has already lost her Shadow Cabinet place once, in 1993, and would do so again if elections were held soon. Her reelection to the party's national executive this autumn may also be

in doubt. But Mr Blair has to back Ms Harman in her attempt to ride out the row. Anything else would represent a victory for the rumbling forces of "old" Labour and undermine his attempt to present Labour as a "new" party favouring parental choice.

The row has not only provided the Tories with welcome ammunition but has also exposed the weaknesses in Labour's current compromise approach. If parental choice is to mean anything, parents should be allowed to choose the schools they believe best for their children. Ms Harman has offended many in her party but her priorities are those of most parents.

PETER RIDDELL

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## Crisis talks on Germany's decline as corporate giants squeeze workers

### Industry and union chiefs call on Kohl to halt rise in unemployed

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN employers and union representatives hold talks today with Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to press him to take urgent action to stem rising unemployment and halt the country's economic decline.

The number of jobless in Germany will exceed four million this month and the

Since 1992, Daimler, Volkswagen and Siemens have shed 180,000 jobs. This year 1994 Germany is planning to cut more than 1,000 jobs. Bayer will cut 2,000. New investment plans increasingly focus on cheap labour countries, such as Poland and the Czech Republic, or lower cost European Union members, like Britain. Siemens is setting up its new microchip factory in northeast England.

Yesterday metalworkers, led by the union IG Metall, launched strikes and occupied smelting plants across Germany's Ruhr industrial heartland to protest against planned changes to retirement laws. They fear the changes will threaten jobs.

The talks today will focus on devising a way out of the jobs crisis without seriously upsetting the foundations of Germany's welfare state. They will also address the problem of how to lower Germany's extraordinarily high labour costs. The Chancellor's former adviser on the economy, Dr Johannes Ludwig — now State Secretary in the Economics Ministry — has worked out a four-point plan which will form the basis of today's discussions:



German steelworkers in Duisburg carry a mock coffin as they protest against planned changes to retirement laws which they fear will lead to layoffs

□ Supplementary wage costs have to be lowered. Employers' contributions to social insurance currently amount to the equivalent of 41.3 per cent of the wage. If this were cut to 39 per cent, employers would save some 15 billion marks. It could lead to the hiring of new workers. The missing money for social insurance would come from an increase in value-added tax.

□ Tax breaks should be restricted to a minimum, according to the Ludwig paper. But income tax should be cut.

□ The Government should spend more on encouraging new entrepreneurs.

□ Subsidies to farmers and coal miners have to be cut.

The plan makes sense to many Bonn politicians. Norbert Blum, the Christian Democrat Labour Minister, regards the plan — if complemented by a restriction on overtime and early retirement — as a way of making Germany more efficient while retaining the welfare state.

### Rouble riches

Moscow: Nearly one-quarter of Russians become rouble millionaires each month. The sum equals little more than \$200 (£132). Another quarter earned less than the subsistence wage of 327,000 roubles, according to the State Statistics Committee yesterday. (AP)

news from industry does not encourage optimism. AEG, the electronics giant now part of Daimler, is being dismantled. Grundig, another household name, is in trouble. Yesterday Daimler suspended its shares while a decision was made about the future of the Dutch aircraft manufacturer, Fokker, in which Daimler has a 51 per cent stake.

## Maastricht straitjacket blamed for French economic ills

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JEAN ARTHUIS, the French Finance Minister, emerged from last weekend's G7 summit rosy with optimism and predicting that the French economy would see "a clear, significant revival of growth" in the latter part of this year.

But that sunny view finds few echoes among French economists, let alone in the high streets of France where consumer and business confidence are at rock bottom after last month's devastating strikes. Faced with a gloomy economic outlook and the threat of further industrial unrest, France has been gripped by a fresh wave of Euro-scepticism, and in recent days politicians from all sides

have questioned whether France can, or should, meet the requirements for a single European currency.

Economic activity has been slowing down since the early part of last year, compounded by tax increases and an unemployment rate of 11.5 per cent after three consecutive monthly rises. The Government originally predicted a growth rate of 2.8 per cent for this year, but many economists now believe the rate will not exceed 1.5 per cent.

December's transport strike and flagging economy have already claimed several prominent victims: Galeries Lafayette, the department store, is closing five outlets and laying off 1,000 workers, while 5,000 smaller businesses in the Paris region face possible bankruptcy. "Pessimism is everywhere," declared a headline in yesterday's *Libération* newspaper.

Overall, the strikes have destroyed an estimated 100,000 jobs and businesses have suffered losses of more than Fr20 billion (£2.6 billion). The problem has been exacerbated in Paris by a sharp drop in foreign tourists.

At the end of last month Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, outlined measures to stimulate the economy, but these have been delayed after the Government belatedly discovered that several of the initiatives required legislative approval. Last week President Chirac announced that France and Germany would co-ordinate measures to boost consumer spending.

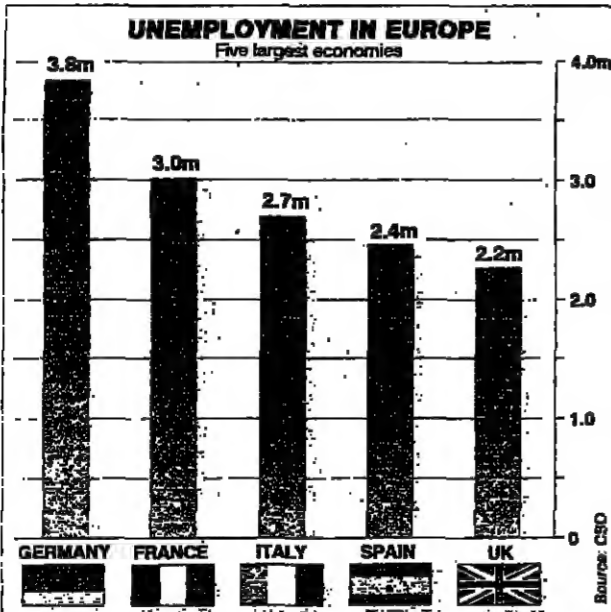
In another bid to stimulate the economy, the Bank of France last week cut its leading interest rates, while declaring its support for government efforts to reduce the budget deficit and reform the lavish welfare system.

The Chirac Government faces a delicate balancing act. The slowdown may require even deeper public spending cuts, which in turn may prompt new strikes, more job losses and further business dislocation. But the price of stronger growth and renewed economic confidence may be still more profound structural reform, and many wonder whether the Government has the stomach for more industrial conflict.

The signs of a slump have provoked a new storm of debate here over European monetary union in general and the Maastricht criteria in particular, which require that the French budget deficit be reduced from 5 per cent to less than 3 per cent of GDP in the next two years.

Last week Philippe Séguin, the Speaker and France's most prominent Euro-sceptic, lashed out at the stupidity of the Maastricht Treaty's framers, whom he accused of "ignoring the people and the realities". Robert Hue, the Communist leader, has called for a referendum on EMU. Jacques Chirac, the outspoken chairman of Peugeot, the French car maker, was more emphatic. "Maastricht no longer exists," he said. "Maastricht is obsolete. Maastricht is dead."

Many hard-pressed businessmen place the blame for their predicament squarely on the drive for monetary union.



## Nato joins forces with war crimes teams to seek out mass graves

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE international search for evidence of mass graves in Bosnia intensified yesterday, when leaders of Nato and the war crimes tribunal in the former Yugoslavia apparently agreed on how to work together to uncover the truth.

Admiral Leighton Smith, the commander of Nato forces in Bosnia, and Judge Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor of the tribunal, met in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, and "agreed on modalities to carry out their respective missions", a statement said. The talks came amid alarm at the weekend over the extent of the alleged graves.

Focus on the alleged mass graves heightened when John Shattuck, the American human rights envoy, toured suspected sites near Srebrenica at the weekend. He said up to 7,000 men may have been massacred by Serb forces in the area. Yesterday he visited Belgrade, the Serbian capital, and briefed President Milosevic on his findings.

Mr Shattuck said he told Mr Milosevic "that what I had seen clearly corroborated the

testimony of the survivors of mass executions... That clearly to me indicates that evidence that has been compiled so far is very clear on mass executions in the area."

American intelligence is, meanwhile, investigating the potentially explosive question of whether President Milosevic was personally associated with war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While Washington would rather avoid his indictment, given his role in securing the Dayton accord, the White House is said to have signalled to the intelligence community at the end of last year that "no one" was exempt from investigation.

In Sarajevo, Admiral Smith indicated that Nato troops would be able to help the war crimes tribunal by providing "appropriate assistance to ensure security for tribunal sites". His comments came after he was quoted at the weekend as saying: "Nato is not going to guard specific grave sites."

Judge Goldstone said his staff would be visiting the sites "in the very, very near future".



Judge Goldstone, held meeting in Sarajevo

In Brussels, Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, vowed to prevent the destruction of suspected mass grave sites. Sources in Brussels said the Nato-led Implementation Force, Ifor, would conduct regular overflights and take aerial photographs to protect the suspected burial sites. Ground patrols would be sent if the suspected graves were in danger of being tampered with, the source said.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said in Washington yesterday that Ifor should help international investigators bring war criminals to justice. "Britain's position is that Nato will have to provide some sort of a role if the investigations are to take place," Mr Portillo said. He was to hold talks later yesterday with William Perry, his American counterpart.

Admiral Smith has, meanwhile, launched a campaign aimed at averting a Serb exodus from Sarajevo with the handover of power by March 20 to the Bosnian Government, as stipulated under the Dayton peace accord. There are about 35,000 Serbs in the suburbs of Sarajevo.

## Tajikistan's chief cleric shot dead

Moscow: Mufi Farhulla Sharipov, the supreme Islamic cleric in Tajikistan, has been murdered (Thomas de Waal writes).

Mufi Sharipov and his family were shot dead on Sunday, first day of Ramadan, at his house. The murders put further strain on peace talks, due this week, between the pro-Moscow Government, which the cleric supported, and the Islamic opposition.

## Bomb suicide

Sofia: A man enraged by the bankruptcy of a foreign exchange bureau killed himself by detonating a bomb in a pizza parlour in the Bulgarian capital. The explosion killed two others, police said. (AFP)

## Mother tongue

Rome: An Italian under house arrest pending an appeal against a conviction for armed robbery has begged police to take him to jail so he can escape his nagging mother, newspapers reported. (Reuters)

## Africa hit by decline in food aid

Nairobi: Serious food shortages will affect 44 African countries this year as a result of declining global availability of food aid and high cereal prices in the world market, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said yesterday.

The report named Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan as the countries in dire need of emergency assistance. Food aid also remained high for Rwanda, and the report urged the international community

to make contingency relief plans for violence-hit Burundi. Much of Liberia will continue to depend on food aid, the FAO said, and gave warning of a "food crisis" in Sierra Leone.

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## Ardennes poachers put rare species at risk

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A VAST network poaching endangered French wildlife has been uncovered in the great forests of the Ardennes in northeast France where Charlemagne once hunted game.

The police arrested 12 people last week suspected of illegally killing rare animals including barn owls and wild boar. They were destined to become trophies or to furnish the tables of gourmands.

The police discovered 125 protected animals stored in deep forests, as well as a "paramilitary arsenal" of weapons allegedly used to kill them. The 20 protected species included wild cats, rare squirrels, finches and woodpeckers. Most of the animals were passed on to taxidermists to make trophies for game hunters and collectors who would then mount them to claim as their own.

Sport was clearly the last thing on the minds of the illegal hunters because their armoury included night-vision equipment, radio transmitters, silencers and military camouflage.

Brigitte Bardot, the animal rights campaigner, has accused the Government of turning a blind eye to the fate of France's rapidly dwindling wildlife.

The wild boar of the Ardennes were particularly vulnerable to the poaching syndicate, which the police described as "almost industrial in scale". Over the past year game wardens have reported that the forest's population of 600 boar had dropped by a sixth without the discovery of a single carcass.

Charlemagne might have found himself agreeing with Mme Bardot on the need for tighter hunting regulations. The King of the Franks and Holy Roman Emperor, who died in AD 814, was particularly fond of hunting the aurochs, a species of wild cattle, in the Ardennes forest. The aurochs is now extinct.



Charlemagne: ardent follower of the hunt

# Why West must stop paying court to Tsar Yeltsin and his barons



Yeltsin: limbering up for election fight

PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S bungling of the latest Chechen insurrection has deepened most Russians' alienation from his Government. Last month the two parties sponsored by the Kremlin won a decisive 11 per cent of the popular vote.

Yet he is manoeuvring more vigorously than ever to be re-elected in the June 12 presidential elections. Brushing aside mounting criticism of his leadership and doubts about his health yesterday, Mr Yeltsin told foreign investors meeting in the Kremlin that he was preparing for a tough presidential race and would formally announce his candidature in the coming weeks.

Some experienced Russian observers, including Aleksandr Tsipko, of Moscow's Gorbachev Foundation, still think he has a good chance of pulling it off. He will, they believe, continue to revert to his natural authoritarian ways, may split the opposition, and discreetly

*With Russia weakened by growing instability, it is time for outsiders to disengage from the faction-fighting, argues Professor Peter Reddaway*

but firmly rig the election process to whatever extent is needed.

In my view, this is certainly his current aim. But I am not so sure that he can bring it off. The next five months will be full of surprises and dirty tricks. Moreover, Mr Yeltsin's precarious health may not stand the strain and may force him to drop out.

The military disasters and savagery of last week's anti-Chechen operations resulted largely from gross political incompetence at the top. This humiliated the Government and the army and again held Russia up to international scorn.

The President's strategy looks like this. Ruling increasingly like a Tsar,

he relies on a coterie of associates and keeps the political and economic power of each in balance. Since no autonomous middle class has emerged to support him, he bases his power on the regional structures of executive power.

Mr Yeltsin will advocate "Reforms — New Course", on the campaign trail. According to numerous leaks, the plan Mr Yeltsin favours is to "organise" the first round of the election so that he and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy finish first and second. Mr Yeltsin would win the run-off election because voters would be scared by the prospect of the ultra-nationalist as President.

Mr Yeltsin has been taking preventive action, trying to appease the Communists and nationalists who dominate the new Duma by dismissing their main enemies. Thus the last prominent democrats in Mr Yeltsin's entourage — Andrei Kozlov, Foreign Minister; Anatoli Chubais, First Deputy Prime Minister; and Sergei Filatov, head of the Presidential Administration — have been removed. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, and Pavel Grachev, Defence Minister, may follow.

Mr Yeltsin has moved to counter a potential rival in June, retired General Aleksandr Lebed. He reportedly ordered the main Electoral Commission to trim the real vote for Mr Lebed's party to below the 5 per cent required for Duma representation.

If Mr Yeltsin loses his nerve he may postpone the election — an unconstitutional move if done without the consent of the Duma. Politics would then become even more unstable. Mr Yeltsin may prefer to try to negotiate a power-sharing compromise with the Duma opposition of Communist and nationalist hardliners. Whatever happens, Western governments need to recognise the Duma elections and the Chechen crisis as serious setbacks to their own hopes and revise their strategy. Firstly, the West should stop taking sides in Russia's internal politics. We have long been fostering anti-Westernism by aggressively supporting Mr Yeltsin and Mr Chernomyrdin in ways we would find highly offensive if they were practised in reverse. Secondly, we should start to prepare seriously for dealing with a Russia run increasingly by Communists and nationalists. Thirdly, we should admit that several years of IMF-directed attempts at macro-economic stabilisation have not

worked. Something is fundamentally wrong when the IMF is pumping into Russia billions of dollars in loans, but sums from twice to ten times as large are simultaneously leaving the country in capital flight.

Fourthly, the West should stop soft-peddling its criticism of the war in Chechnya. From the start, this has undermined Russia's democracy, sapped its economy and dismayed most of its people.

And, fifthly, we need to realise that the Russian state is now so weak that organised crime and corruption will go on flourishing and order will not be restored for years. In sum, the West needs to rebuild its Russia policy from the bottom up.

The author is Professor of Political Science at George Washington University and formerly Director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in Washington.

## Millionaire's flat tax lure enlivens US election race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AGAINST the odds, this year's plodding race for the Republican presidential nomination has finally generated a debate of real substance.

The issue is whether America should take the revolutionary step of abandoning tax progressiveness or abide by the unquestioned principle that the better-off should contribute disproportionately more to the common weal.

The catalyst has been Steve Forbes, the publishing magnate. He has spent more than \$12 million (\$7.9 million) promoting the idea of a "flat tax" to replace the labyrinthine income tax code with its five basic bands and countless loopholes and deductions.

Instead, he would have all Americans pay exactly the same rate of tax — 17 per cent — on their earned income. The first \$36,800 would be exempt to protect poorer families, but he would permit no deductions and no taxation of any unearned income.

This radical idea, untested anywhere, has propelled Mr Forbes into second place and split the Republican field. Robert Dole, the front-runner, distrusts supply-side economics and tried unsuccessfully to dissuade Jack Kemp, the head of a Republican tax commission, from endorsing the concept in the commission's report last week.

Phil Gramm, the Texas sen-

ator, sought to trump Mr Forbes by proposing a 16 per cent "flat tax", applicable to unearned income, too, and retaining certain popular deductions. Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, called the "flat tax" a "truly nutty idea" while Pat Buchanan, the populist conservative commentator, suggested it had been cooked up by "the boys in the yacht basin". But everyone — even the White House — has seen where the wind is blowing and now backs a "flatter" tax code.

A new *Wall Street Journal* poll indicates 41 per cent support for the "flat tax" and its proponents certainly paint an alluring picture. They claim it would generate the biggest boom in US history by liberating the economy from the dead weight of the present tax code, letting Americans keep more of what they earn and encouraging investment. It would also end tax evasion and clean up Washington, as politicians could no longer trade tax breaks for political and financial support.

That is a powerful message in a country that loathes Washington, taxes and the Internal Revenue Service. But other Republicans believe the "flat tax" is one of those superficially attractive ideas that collapse on inspection.

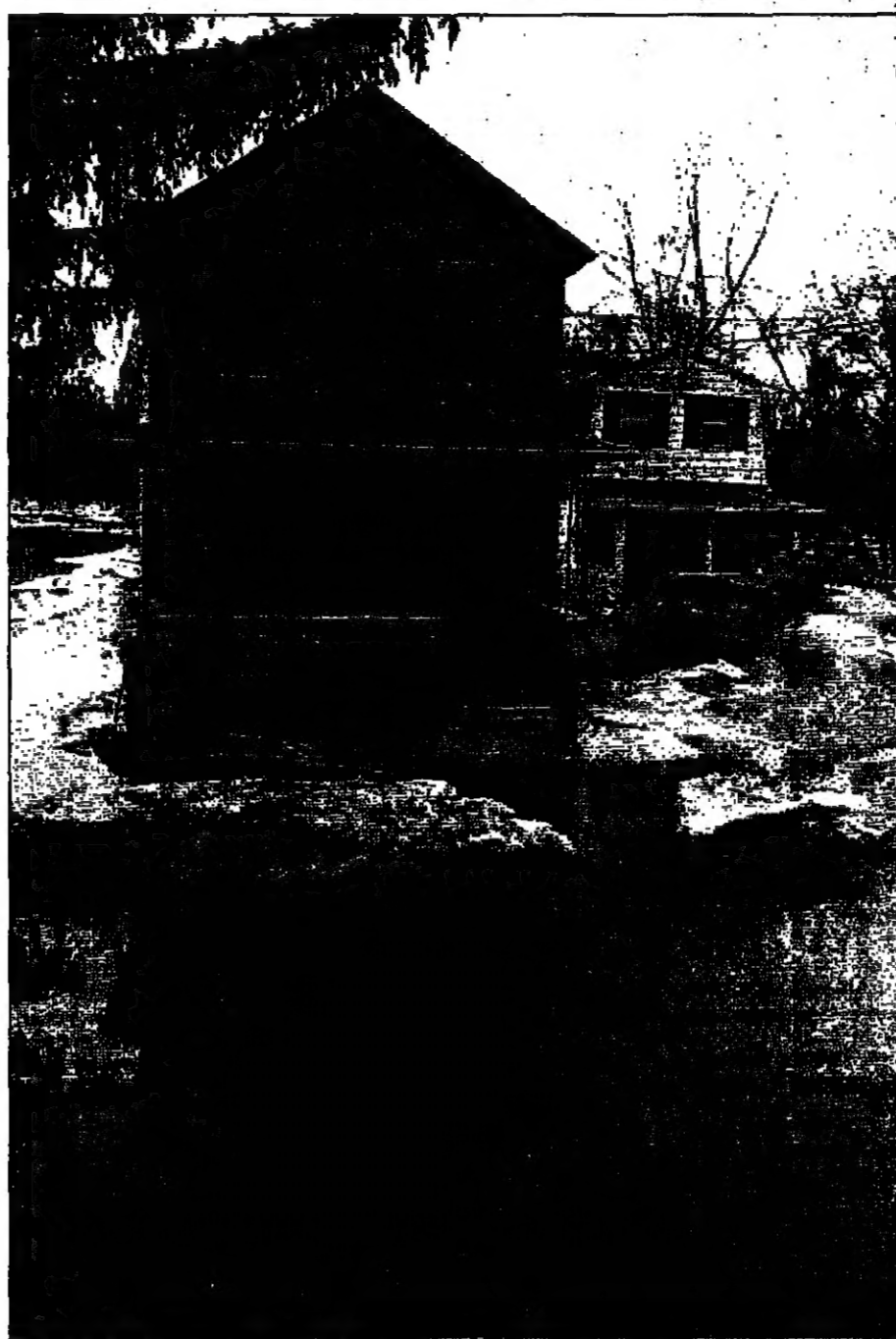
Most independent analyses contend that a 17 per cent "flat

tax" would swell the deficit by about \$200 billion a year as Washington is struggling to clear mountains of debt left by the last experiment with supply-side economics, in the 1980s. Mr Forbes blames that debt on uncurbed spending and insists that the analyses underestimate the revenues America's explosive growth would generate.

"Flat tax" opponents also predict the Republicans would be electorally crucified for abolishing mortgage-tax relief — a move that would hit property prices — and for proposing, under Mr Forbes's plan, that multimillionaires living off inherited wealth would pay no tax while their servants paid 17 per cent.

The problem is this. A 17 per cent "flat tax" would not greatly help or hurt the middle classes, but if it was raised to prevent the deficit ballooning or permit popular deductions, ordinary Americans would be dlobbered while the rich would still enjoy a windfall. Even at 17 per cent, Mr Forbes himself would save about \$150,000 annually.

Conventional wisdom is that support for the "flat tax" will fade once voters understand what it really means, but then Mr Forbes has shown the old pro-growth, Reaganesque message of the 1980s still has far more resonance than anyone realised.



Flooded houses in Plymouth, Pennsylvania, where an emergency was declared after a sudden thaw and heavy rain brought more misery to northeastern America

## US floodwaters begin to freeze as cold returns

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FLOODS caused massive damage in northeastern America after a freak thaw and summer-style rains washed away the recent heavy snow. Thirty-five people were killed, thousands were evacuated from their homes, cars were smashed and roads collapsed.

Residents of Pennsylvania and coastal areas from Rhode Island to Washington wondered what they had done to offend Mother Nature. An exhausted Samuel Jordan, the capital's Director of Emergency Preparedness, said, with a thin smile, that he was preparing for a plague of locusts.

Rivers, swollen by a sudden rise in temperature at the end of last week, rose by 10ft. The Ohio burst its banks, covering 95 per cent of the island of Wheeling, West Virginia. Great eastern waterways raced out of control, and the Potomac flooded Washington's chic Georgetown area.

A state of emergency was declared in Pennsylvania, allowing federal funds to be used to house evacuees and buy supplies. Pittsburgh was hit by the worst floods for 20 years and Tom Ridge, the Governor, and his family had to move out of the gubernatorial mansion in Harrisburg to escape the rising waters of the Susquehanna.

Mr Ridge, a Republican, criticised the speed of response from federal agencies. "They should get off their Democrat behinds and come up and see the pain on

people's faces," he said. The Red Cross opened 199 temporary shelters from New York to West Virginia.

Flash floods raced down mountain ravines, gathering speed as they went and causing havoc when they hit towns. In Cumberland, Maryland, every car on every lot of six dealerships was destroyed.

The trouble began with the heavy snowfalls in the northeast at the beginning of the month. A sudden rise in temperatures then brought a thaw and heavy rain, with storm drains blocked by ice and debris. By yesterday the cold was back, with some of the floodwaters reduced to slow-moving ice flows.

Flood evacuees in New Jersey described wading to safety through "unbelievably cold" waters.

In New York state a road by a reservoir suddenly gave way, killing at least five people. Tim LaTourette, a volunteer fireman, could have been describing the entire region when he looked at the remains of the road and said: "They didn't stand a chance."

□ South Kingstown, Rhode Island: About 10,000 oil-coated lobsters and dozens of birds have been washed ashore here as oil spread from a leaking barge which ran aground off a wildlife refuge in a storm on Friday. A state of emergency has been declared and President Clinton promised federal disaster relief funds would be made available. (AP)

## Republicans split in budget battle

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Republican Party was riven yesterday by its latest strategy to relieve political gridlock in Washington when a congressional leader said there would be no extension on the American debt unless President Clinton offered substantial budget concessions to Capitol Hill.

Richard Armitage, the House majority leader and a close ally of the Speaker, Newt Gingrich, signalled that the Republicans may be willing to use the threat of the first national default in American history to force Mr Clinton to give more ground in the impasse over a balanced budget.

Less than a week after John Kasich, chairman of the House budget committee, had



Armitage: knows where conservatives stand

said Republicans were willing to raise the limit on federal borrowing, Mr Armitage dismissed the notion.

"John Kasich's willingness to vote for it to the contrary, it is not coming through the

House unless it carries with it something that is a substantial share of our agenda of decreasing the size and intrusiveness of government," Mr Armitage said. "We have a House that is committed to getting this job done."

His comments, which also contradicted assurances last week from Mr Gingrich, brought swift reaction from the White House, which believes that such a scheme will backfire on its Republican opponents. It demanded a disclaimer from the congressional leadership.

"I would, on behalf of the White House, call upon Speaker Gingrich and majority leader [Robert] Dole to immediately repudiate Mr Armitage's remarks," Mike McCurry, the official spokesman, said. "The remarks are dangerous, they jeopardise the

economic security of the United States in the world."

Mr Armitage is known for his accurate reading of where the most conservative members of Congress stand on any issue.

They believe that any prolonged delay over raising the nation's borrowing would force the Treasury to find new techniques, including some the Clinton Administration has deemed less than legal, to raise cash to keep paying its bondholders. Opponents, such as making use of other government money, selling or leasing gold supplies or calling in more deposits held in commercial banks, present legal obstacles.

By forcing such steps, the most conservative Republicans hope to gain political capital by convincing the public that the Treasury is manipulating public money.

## Holbrooke in Cyprus peace move

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE United States is about to launch a top-priority diplomatic initiative to resolve the Cyprus problem. It will be led by Richard Holbrooke, Assistant Secretary of State and chief architect of the recent peace deal to end the war in former Yugoslavia.

Mr Holbrooke announced the peace initiative yesterday after discussing it with Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister. He said he would begin discussions in earnest as soon as a new Government was formed in Ankara, a move expected by Turkish officials within the next fortnight.

Mr Holbrooke, who arrived in Jerusalem to be presented with a medal by the World Jewish Congress for his peace-making efforts in Bosnia, disclosed that the Clinton Administration had been invited by all parties to the Cyprus dispute to make the new attempt to find a solution.

"We have decided that 1996 will be the year of Cyprus," Mr Holbrooke added, saying that the American-led peace mission would have secondary support from the European Union and the United Nations.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkish forces invaded the north of the island in 1974, leading to de facto partition and a ceasefire "green line" patrolled by United Nations troops. The fighting led to 200,000 Greek Cypriots leaving the north, with more than 1,600 still listed as missing. The Turkish Cypriots, a fifth of the Cyprus population,

control nearly two-fifths of the island.

The American move was greeted with as much scepticism as hope in Cyprus. "We hope so, but realistically I doubt it," President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, replied when asked if there would be a breakthrough this year. Rauf Denktaş, the veteran Turkish Cypriot leader, said that Mr Holbrooke's mission could succeed only if he realised that Cyprus had two owners.

United Nations and EU officials welcomed Mr Holbrooke's involvement, but emphasised that the sheer force of one personality could not solve the problem.

□ Athens: Greece's new Socialist Government was sworn in yesterday, with Theodore

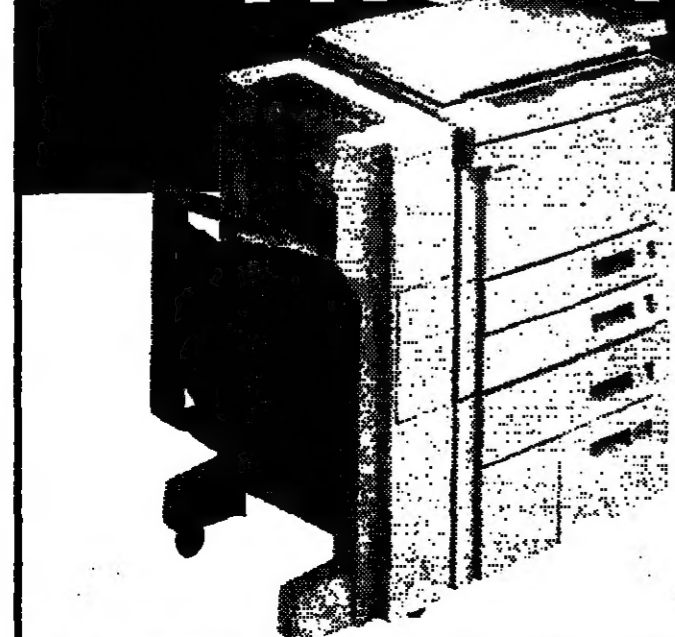
Pangalos as Foreign Minister (John Carr writes). He has been outspoken on all foreign policy issues, including Turkey, Cyprus and Macedonia.



Holbrooke: waiting for new Turkish Government

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# Day two: Why some patients feel worse after treatment than before

## Does your doctor really know best?

Probably the most famous cure for back pain is that attributed to the Canadian, Daniel Palmer. Palmer wanted to test his theory that misalignments of the spine lay at the root of many health problems. He persuaded his office janitor, who had been deaf for 17 years after injuring his back and neck, to let him manipulate his back.

Allegedly, there was a loud click and the man's hearing was restored. The year was 1895 and Palmer went on to found the technique of chiropractic, which now claims millions of adherents.

While there is much to be said for chiropractic as a treatment for back pain, sufferers expecting miracle cures are likely to be disappointed. Medical opinion on how to deal with the condition has undergone a revolution. The traditional treatment of extended bed rest, traction and manipulation under anaesthesia, is out. Instead, sufferers are now advised to swallow a couple of paracetamol, get some physical manipulation and, above all, keep moving.

Six out of ten people suffer back pain at some time in their lives and there has been a fivefold increase in the numbers seeking hospital treatment over the past decade. A great many have been misled by GPs who held 14 million consultations for the condition in 1993, but too often prescribed the wrong remedy. Others suffered at the hands of therapists falsely claiming to have a cure for the condition.

Back pain is the third most commonly reported symptom after headache and tiredness. It is slightly commoner in women, and tends to increase with age from the late teens to the early fifties.

The most comprehensive recent study of treatments for



NEW IDEAS ON TREATMENT

back pain was carried out by the Clinical Standards Advisory Group, an expert body appointed by the Government to examine latest research.

The group consulted 23 professional organisations and held a conference attended by leading British back experts from the NHS, private medicine and alternative medicine. Guidelines based on the report are to be issued to all family doctors by the Royal College of General Practitioners later this year.

The report's findings were shocking. Many of the treatments routinely used for back pain were ineffective and inappropriate, it said. Some patients "appear to be more disabled after treatment than before".

More than 95 per cent of people with back pain have simple backache — a musculoskeletal disorder which can be self-treated, if necessary with advice from the GP. Most people recover spontaneously if they continue with their

Most people are being given completely the wrong treatment for back pain by their GPs. Jeremy Laurance reports

normal activities. The worst advice is to lie in bed feeling sorry for yourself while waiting for a hospital appointment in a month's time.

The most important thing is to get treatment quickly. Delaying the start of treatment leads to chronic pain. The report says: "The classic mistake is to give patients painkillers and send them home for bed rest without explanation. Bed rest is not the answer."

Simple backache can be

very painful and often spreads to one or both hips and thighs. A GP will want to be sure that it is not nerve root pain, commonly caused by a slipped disc, or serious damage to the spine caused by disease or trauma, such as a fall.

Nerve root pain, also known as sciatica, is usually localised and commonly radiates into the foot or toes. It may be accompanied by numbness.

Treatment is the same as for simple backache but sufferers generally need more painkillers and are more likely to need bed rest in the early stages, for up to one or two weeks. The same priority of getting moving applies but progress is likely to be slower. Some people need surgery.

Where serious spinal problems are suspected, GPs should refer patients urgently to a specialist.

One of the most striking findings in the report is the over-ordering of X-rays of the back. An X-ray of the lumbar spine delivers 120 times the dose of radiation of a chest X-ray, but at least half of them are judged by the Royal College of Radiologists to be unnecessary.

The biggest problem for back sufferers is getting access to treatment. Waiting lists for physiotherapy are commonly two to three months — too long for the treatment to be effective. Physiotherapists are mostly occupied treating patients with chronic pain which would not be chronic had they got treatment earlier. The Clinical Standards Advisory Group recommended switching resources to provide more help sooner, but the Government's response has been lukewarm. As a result, more than half of patients with back pain pay for physical therapy privately.



Speed is vital in seeking any treatment for backache — delay leads to chronic pain

### The aim of treatment is to keep active

- Take a couple of paracetamol for the pain, up to four times a day, and some gentle exercises or manipulation if it persists more than a few days. Aspirin or anti-inflammatory drugs, such as ibuprofen, may also help.
- Avoid taking to your bed. Resort to bed rest only if it is essential, and then for a maximum of three days. Longer is harmful.
- Exercise will ease the pain and speed recovery. The earlier it is begun the quicker the recovery. Walking, cycling and swimming improve fitness with minimal stress.
- After the first two weeks, strengthening

exercises for the back and abdominal muscles may be gradually increased.

● Physical manipulation can help some, but only as a means to get them moving again, not as a cure in itself. Manipulation under general anaesthetic should be avoided.

● Most patients should be able to return to work in six weeks.

● Chronic back pain is often accompanied by psychological problems, which develop as a result of pain and failed treatment. Patients who have not returned to work after six weeks should see their doctor.

## From cystitis to cancer — diseases that back pain can mask

### WHAT DOCTORS SHOULD LOOK FOR

Six months ago a 75-year-old man who had been in excellent health noticed two changes: he had some slight abdominal pain, which radiated through to his back to such an extent that the back pain was its most noticeable feature, and the one he complained of; and he had a remarkable and unexplained total loss of appetite and therefore of weight. Ultrasound examination showed that he had cancer of the pancreas which had already spread to his liver.

Although, fortunately, most backache is the result of either fair wear and tear or excessive strain, it is a mistake to dismiss it without considering other reasons.

Prostate wall disease of the gastrointestinal tract is also felt in the back: chronic ulcerations of the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum can



Special report by  
Dr Thomas  
Shuttford

cause pain felt between the shoulder blades; and inflammation of the colon causes low backache. Backache is a frequent symptom noticed by patients with inflammatory bowel disease, whether ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease, and a great many more people experience it from developing inflamed guts when eating injudiciously abroad, or after taking in too much alcohol.

Pain from the kidney is felt in the back in the angle between the ribs and the spine. The pain varies from a dull persistent ache, which can be characteristic of a large renal stone or cancer of the kidney, to the acute pain experienced when suffering from an infection in the kidney. At other times an intermittent colicky pain may be associated with smaller renal stones.

Tumours from other parts of the body frequently spread to the spine. Those most commonly encountered include cancer of the breast, prostate, thyroid and lung. Less often the pain may be related to primary tumours of the spine or myeloma.

Any disease of the spinal nerves can cause pain. These may be benign but troublesome, like herpes simplex or shingles, or may stem from tumours of the nerves. Not all



Backache in women can often indicate pelvic disease

these tumours are malignant: some, such as the comparatively common neurofibromas, can usually be removed without leaving any residual damage. Tuberculosis, or other infections of the bone, can infect the spine. Aneurysms of the aorta, a

mittelschmerz, the discomfort which is associated with ovulation in the mid-cycle, but it is also a frequent feature of chronic pelvic inflammatory disease, cystitis or endometriosis. Any pelvic tumour, including cancer of the cervix, ovary or uterus, can cause low backache, and in men cancer of the prostate is possible.

### Slipped disc

JUST before Christmas, disaster overtook one of my patients. George is a busy but sedentary City worker, who drives to Herefordshire on Friday evenings. Already tired by a long week, he sat in a comparatively cramped fixed position in his car coping with the weekend rush hour. At his destination he lifted out his luggage, heavy with books and papers.

Next morning when he lent forward to shave he suffered an agonising pain in his back, and had to be helped back to

bed. He had suffered a prolapsed disc which often follows heavy straining, particularly if combined with fatigue and tension.

In the past George would have been prescribed powerful painkillers with weeks, or even months, of rest. But several large research projects have shown that patients get better faster if they grin and bear the pain and continue to hobble around as they carry out their normal duties. (If at any time pressure on the nerves interferes with passing urine, bowel activities, potency, or causes muscle weakness and a dragging foot, an immediate specialist opinion is called for.)

If the disc pain persists, as it did with George, a comparatively minor operation, microdiscectomy, is used to shave away that small part of the disc which is causing the trouble. This has been made possible by the MRI scan, which enables the surgeon to

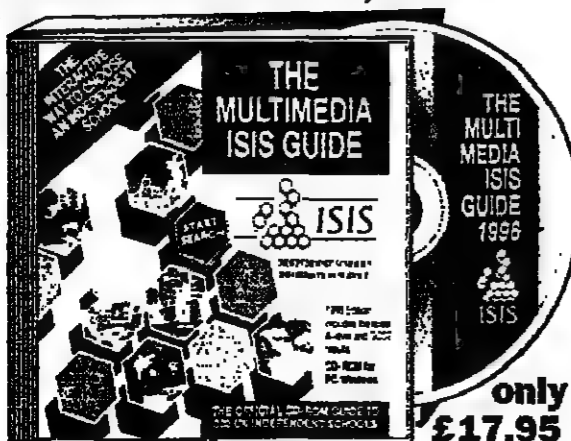
pinpoint the spot where the disc is protruding. The incision is small and the patient needs only two or three nights in hospital and, with luck, is playing football with the children again within three weeks.

Although more than 90 per cent of disc prolapses affect the lower back they can occur anywhere in the spine, and the neck is also particularly vulnerable. They are most common between the ages of 30 and 40. In youth the outer disc is more resilient, and in older age the tissues around the spine become increasingly fibrous so that the discs are to some extent strengthened by being spindled into position.

Disc lesions are more common in men, but only because they tend to undertake more heavy manual tasks. Young mothers who stoop to lift their toddlers, rather than bending at the knees before they hoist them aloft, are also regular victims, particularly if they are pregnant.

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## The great leveller

Backache is the most prosaic of pains, the most widespread, the least glamorous — and yet it holds a strong grip on national attention partly because of the famous people it regularly puts out of action.

England's cricket hopes have been dashed in the past by back injuries to Ian Botham, Geoff Boycott, Derek Pringle and Graeme Hick, and now Mike Atherton's back trouble has flared up again. Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe were forced out of tennis by bad backs, and Linford Christie's spinal health has kept his fans on tenterhooks for years.

Pop stars Simon Le Bon, Kim Wilde and Gary Glitter have all suffered; while the silly walks of John Cleese have also taken their toll.

The Duke of Edinburgh's trouble initiated his switch from polo to carriage racing, and the Princess of Wales, like Elizabeth Taylor, has benefited from chiropractic. The Prince of Wales has admitted that a bad back means he has to kneel to do the gardening.

Stefan Buczacki, presenter of Classic FM's Gardening Forum, says the problem for Britain's gardeners is that our forks and spades are too short. "I get back pain, like most gardeners," he says. "It is an occupational hazard. After a day's digging my back is so bad I can hardly get out of

### FAMOUS SUFFERERS

bed. Think how many gardeners' hours are lost each day in this country."

Richard Briers, the actor, has certainly lost a few. Returning from a tour last year he found his runner-beans in need of urgent rescue. "All the digging gave me what is laughingly called an embarrassed disc," he says. "I had to go to the osteopath at £20 a session."

Bill Oddie "did" his back reaching down to clean out his garden pond and the problem recurred during such strenuous activities as inserting his contact lenses. "I read about a local chiropractor so have been going from the start," he says. "It has always worked for me: I limp in and walk out."

The writer and critic Al Alvarez was a rock-climber and regular squash player until the age of 55, when lumbar spasms forced him to stop. "Writing is a boring, sedentary occupation," he says. "And slouching at a poker table for hours doesn't help. But back pain is not demographically limited. Doctors are no use, but I do know a genius osteopath. ... I walk in like the Hunchback of Notre Dame and come out like Baryshnikov."

GILES COREN

## Injectons may be needed

MANY BACK problems respond to manipulation but it could be harmful if the joints are inflamed. In this case injections may help. Most injections are a combination of steroids, which reduce inflammation, and anaesthetics, which kill pain.

An epidural injection is made into the space between the bony walls of the spinal canal and the outer sheath of the spinal cord (the dura). It numbs the lining of the spinal cord, giving more or less instant relief. Some people need just one injection while others need repeats at monthly intervals.

Nerve blocks are injected

directly into the root of the troublesome nerve, where it emerges from the spinal cord. As with epidurals, the effect varies — some sufferers need repeat injections while others find a single treatment does the trick. Sclerosant therapy involves injecting the back ligaments with an irritant which stimulates them to produce new fibrous tissue. It is used for people who have damaged vertebrae which grate on one another. Several injections are needed, usually at weekly intervals. The results, again variable, are felt after about eight weeks.

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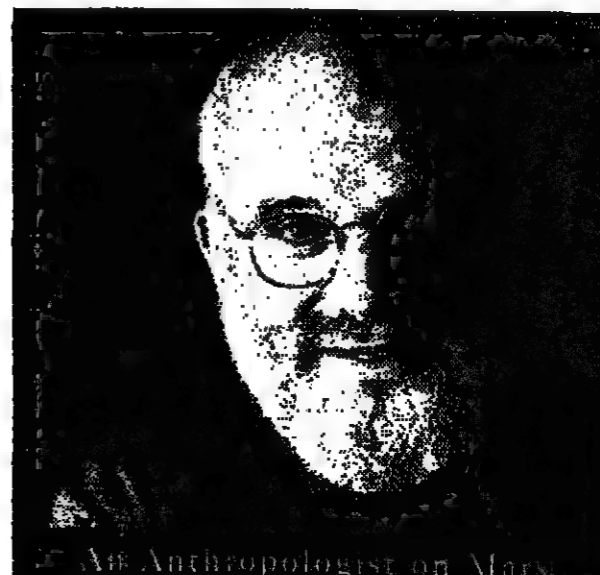
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Harriet Harman is under siege for sending her son to a grammar school. She deserves more respect, says Mary Ann Sieghart

## Why Harriet decided to put motherhood first

Harriet Harman has spent all her working life trying to make the careers of motherhood and politics compatible. She has suffered the usual tensions of combining the two: the guilt, the broken nights, the twin pulls of duty. But not until this week, with her decision to send her son Joe to a grammar school, have the two come into such open and painful conflict.

Ms Harman feels that, above all else, she is a mother and is therefore determined to do the right thing by her children. Her view is that if politics make it impossible for mothers to be mothers as well as MPs, then there is something wrong with politics. And she has fought tenaciously — often against strong opposition from within her own party — for the culture of politics to change so that it can more easily accommodate her half of the population.

Labour activists may be furious with her actions. But parents all over the country will sympathise with her plight. Already she has been criticised, along with Tony Blair, for sending her elder son,

Harry, to an opted-out school, the Oratory. She could have taken the slightly easier decision to send Joe there too. But the two boys have different characters. The strict regime of the Oratory would not have suited Joe as well as the more liberal (though highly academic) St Olave's.

Moreover, Joe himself passionately wanted to go to St Olave's. A third of his classmates sat the exam and two out of his three best friends are set to go there. He looked around half a dozen schools but set his heart on St Olave's when he saw a whole room full of boys playing chess. How could his parents have said to him: "We know the school is ideal for you. We know you want to go there. We know that two of your best friends are going. But you can't because of our politics?"

Yesterday, while Ms Harman's husband, Jack Dromey, was at

home looking after their other two flu-bound children, the telephone rang constantly with messages of support from fellow MPs. They sympathised with his dilemma: some had moved house to be near good schools, others had taken a deep breath and sent their children to grant-maintained schools. Not all were "modernisers" — but all were parents.

Ms Harman will undoubtedly suffer for her choice. Her position on Labour's national executive committee will become fragile. And she may well be voted off the Shadow Cabinet too. But she would not have been able to live with herself had she compromised her son's one chance of a good education for the sake of her career. This was the ultimate selfless mother's act.

Inner-London state secondary schools are notoriously bad compared with those in the rest of the country. This poses a painful



Harriet Harman: tenacious

dilemma for female Labour MPs. Those who have a family tend to have London seats — otherwise they would never see their children. But the choice of schools is abysmal.

Ms Harman herself went to an excellent private school: St Paul's.

But her husband went to a tough urban primary and passed his eleven-plus to a Catholic grammar school. Neither is in favour of a nationwide division of schools into grammars and secondary moderns. They are, however, in favour of allowing their children a say in their own education.

The Harman-Dromey household is a very child-centred one. Paintings by the children cover the walls. Their parents have been determined to try to keep their children out of the limelight. They have disdained family photocalls since the children have been old enough to understand what was happening. When Mr Dromey was running for election for the top job at the Transport and General Workers' Union, he refused to allow newspapers to photograph him with his children.

That is why both parents were particularly upset at the hounding of Joe by photographers yesterday.

As he left home with his father to go to school, he was besieged, and finally ran into a fence trying to escape a snapper careering towards him. Ms Harman complained to the Press Complaints Commission, but the flu-ridden house, with curtains drawn, was still surrounded well into the afternoon.

Ms Harman, meanwhile, was off to discover her fate in the House. Determined not to resign, she nevertheless felt under tremendous pressure. This is not her first political setback: two years ago, she was voted off the Shadow Cabinet in a chauvinist plot against the reservation of places for women. John Smith, however, gave her a job regardless, to the fury of many colleagues.

To exacerbate the hostility from other MPs, her life so far has been easier than most of theirs. The daughter of a Harley Street consultant and niece of Lord Long-

ford, she had a good private education and worked for the National Council for Civil Liberties before entering Parliament. Her marriage to Mr Dromey is, in class terms, an unlikely one. But he is proud and supportive of her and, despite his own career ambitions, they have reached a working arrangement that enables the children to thrive, through a process of what he describes as "military organisation". He may not be enough of a new man to get up for them in the night; but they do, in compensation, bear her surname.

Now she will have to face the wrath of Labour activists and not a few MPs. Mr Blair is likely to back her: she advised him of her decision before it became public, and he considers it to be a personal matter. He is well aware of the support she has won from thousands of working mothers who see their own problems reflected in her. If Harriet Harman is forced to resign her job for being a good mother, they may never forgive the Labour Party.

# Bringing celebrity to book



Publishers have discovered that even a bad novel by a famous fashion model or a New York socialite will outsell a work of literary genius. Joe Joseph wonders why

We all admire great novelists because we know just how hard it is to write a successful piece of fiction without a sharp ear for words, a good plot — and plenty of international catwalk experience, like Naomi Campbell. At the very least it helps to have your own parliamentary constituency, like Edwina Currie.

Currie next week publishes her second parliamentary "book-buster", *A Woman's Place*. Sara Keays, Cecil Parkinson's former mistress, will soon let us read her debut novel, *A Black Book*. Currie and Keays are the latest in a catalogue of celebrity novelists who have turned the traditional literary equation on its head. In olden days, people who didn't know any better wrote novels which, if they were consistently good, made their authors famous: this was the fuddy-duddy route trod by Greene and Hemingway and Dickens. Now you become famous first and then write a novel. Or, better, get someone else to write it for you.

Over the past couple of years we have seen novels from such well-known women of letters as Naomi Campbell, Ivana Trump, Britt Ekland and the former model Jilly Johnson. Even Willie Shoemaker, the American jockey, has published a ghost-written race-course thriller called *Stalking Horse*. Some publishers are now suggesting that the Duchess of York's surest way of clearing her debts would be to write a really salty blockbuster about life inside the palace. Why?

If Peter Ackroyd isn't running for Parliament, and Anita Brookner isn't modelling Versace's spring collection, why do MPs, fashion models and penniless royals feel they should write novels? Even Francois Mitterrand, we hear, asked to write a novel — just as Napoleon had before him.

At least Currie writes her own books. And she is proving to be making a good stab — and a good living — at it. Her new novel does not stray very far from the territory

explored in her first, *A Parliamentary Affair*, which has sold an impressive 350,000 copies in Britain and the Commonwealth. *A Woman's Place* revolves around homophobic MPs who are exposed as being secretly gay while Elaine Stalker, MP, is abducted by a sexually-fixed care-in-the-community patient.

"Underneath the sex and the humour, the novel is intended to have a serious theme," says Currie, who makes sure she is never knowingly undersold. "It is designed to expose the decline of Parliament and the appalling treatment of women there."

The cases of Campbell and Trump are rather more audacious, in that both acknowledge that they provided little more than the gist of the literary efforts that appeared under their names. These are women who probably couldn't even produce a complete shopping list. Campbell's *Swan* was written with the "collaboration" of Caroline Upcher, an in-house prose doctor at Campbell's publisher, Heinemann. And when Trump decided there was life after Donald she published *For Love Alone* — the tale of Katrina, a former Czech model who marries a New York property tycoon, rides the 1980s social whirl and divorces after he falls for a strumpet. It was largely written by Camille Marchetta, a one-time scriptwriter for *Dallas* and *Dynasty*, though Trump did frame the plot and hand Marchetta a tape recording of some of her thoughts.

Both these books mark an amazing breakthrough in the world of letters: all you now need to become a successful novelist is literary ambition, and someone to fulfil it for you. The ghost-writer probably gets paid a large fee, plus maybe an extra £5,000 for not laughing right down the phone when Campbell's agency calls up and says Naomi has decided that, what with it being a rainy Sunday afternoon, and her having a couple of hours to kill, she thought she'd write a novel — that is, if Ms Upcher is feeling up to it.



Fame is the spur: unlike some celebrity novelists, at least Edwina Currie writes her own books — and is making a good living at it

If you're wondering why, in view of my feelings, I still spend £10 on Trump's or Campbell's book, I'm not that stupid. I'm much more stupid than that. I bribe someone extra five to go and buy the book for me because I'm too embarrassed to go into Waterstone's and buy it myself. It is this shameless nosiness that has made publishers realise that a bad novel by a famous fashion model will outsell a work of genius. Why

should anyone care that *Swan* would only be recognisable as a novel if studied from a great distance?

The celebrity novelist comes into her own on the publicity circuit. If Trump is not a born writer, she is a born publicist. "It's a wonderful, wonderful book," she gushed in one interview. "To my surprise I find I have a great imagination."

Others have, too. Joan Collins has penned a novel, *Prime Time*. So

has Mandy Rice-Davis, *The Scarlet Thread*. Martina Navratilova and William Shamer as well. Max Bygraves has tried to get his idea for a novel published and Tom Jones can't interest anyone in his "fictional" tale of a Welsh lad who becomes a famous singer.

We wouldn't stomach Ivana Trump singing *Così Fan Tutti* at Covent Garden. If Martina Navratilova decided she'd like to run the British Museum, we'd tell

her to think again. But we not only let these people write novels, we buy them. Novels have become the first refuge of celebrities looking for cash or a second flush of fame. "I don't say I'm the Shakespeare," Trump told *Vanity Fair*, "but it's not just about the beautiful people and the gorgeous yachts and the fabulous homes and lots of sex. I tried to put in more the feelings." Well... Ms Marchetta did.

● Nigella Lawson is on holiday

## When girls fall out

We all know that compared with men, women are saner, nicer, often brighter, make better parents, and always react more thoughtfully when annoyed. This is because men are short-tempered and impetuous, while women know that reacting like fat in a fire is plain foolish. Smart women count to ten before snapping, because this gives enough time to compose the sort of really inventive abuse that doesn't come on the spur of the moment.

The Princess of Wales and her sons' nanny, Tiggy Legge-Bourke, are the latest two women to show us that, as a spectator sport, cat-fighting between women is more bruising than anything Mike Tyson could deliver at his peak.

When girls fall out, they don't settle the matter once and for all the way sensible grown men do, by, say, shooting each other. Feuding women bitch behind backs, leave sizzling messages on answering machines, and cast innuendoes that men find anatomically perplexing. Men blackball enemies from their club, women call their lawyers. That's what Ms Legge-Bourke has done to clear her name, which she says Princess Diana has besmirched in some yet-to-be-revealed way.

Libel lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck, acting on behalf of Prince Charles's personal assistant, has written to the Princess of Wales's lawyers demanding a retraction of "false allegations" about Tiggy.

But what was it that Di hissed at 30-year-old Tiggy at the staff Christmas party that Diana and Charles hosted a month ago at London's Lanesborough Hotel? It certainly wasn't "Look sharp Tiggy, all Wills's socks were mismatched the last time he came to visit me." Can't have been: "You're such a super skier, Tiggy, that I just don't know how you summon the energy for such an exhausting life." Or even the deadly: "You must meet my sister-in-law, Fergie. You're so similar that I'm certain you'd get on like a house on fire."

Last year's spat between the sisterly feminists Germaine Greer and Suzanne Moore of *The Guardian* was a revelation to many men who hadn't known that Ms Moore shows "three fat inches of cleavage", or that she wears shoes capable of having intercourse, until Ms Greer pointed this out.

But women have always been bitches, even about the opposite sex. When Noël Coward told Dorothy Parker: "You almost look like a man," Parker spat straight back: "So do you." Compared with W.C. Fields's description of Mae West as "a plumber's idea of Cleopatra" it's almost a compliment.

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# Last chance for Forte — and the City

William Rees-Mogg warns against Granada's bid out of hell

The Granada-Forte offer is a bid out of hell, one of those bids which damage all those who have any part in them, except for some of the people who get the big fees. Already the costs are astronomical. Granada admits to costs of more than £100 million. Forte can hardly be less than £50 million, which Granada shareholders would have to pay.

Granada, if successful, will have restructuring costs which have been estimated at another £300 million and will be selling £2 billion of assets, again incurring fees which are hardly likely to be less than £40 million. Then there is tax. I do not believe for a moment that the Inland Revenue will allow any avoidance of the capital gains tax on disposals, which should come to £400 million. That adds up to about £900 million of actual or potential costs — getting on for a third of the value of the bid as a whole before the bid. If one allows that Granada will be a forced seller of whatever it does sell, this bid could easily cost its shareholders £1 billion, on top of the risks of a colossal debt. This is not good management.

That should do nicely for Granada. What will the bid do for Forte? If Granada wins, it will dismember Britain's only big international hotel company, which at present owns some of the best hotels in the world, and runs them very well. It will break up the staff and the management. It is not fashionable in Britain nowadays to build businesses rather than buy them; this bid is not going to encourage it.

That should do nicely for Forte. What will the bid do for the shareholders? Collectively they have owned two companies with excellent prospects. If Granada wins, they will then own one badly overvalued conglomerate with dubious prospects. The management will be absorbed in trying to repay the new debts. Consider the difficult position of Mercury Asset Management. It holds about 15 per cent of both companies in the pension funds that it presently advises. After the bid, if it succeeds, these pension funds will still own approximately the same underlying assets, less their share of Granada's lost £1 billion. Whatever the paper profit might be, the pension funds will have £150 million less in underlying assets.

That is not the sort of investment management that Siegmund Warburg would have approved of, nor is there any reason why the pension funds should be pleased with it. In any case, Mercury Asset Management, if it accepted the offer, would be criticised as the firm that decided the battle, and got it wrong. To take on the responsibility of restructuring British industry without being qualified to do so must be bad business. The number of executives of Mercury Asset Management with senior management experience in the world outside finance is quite small.

Bad for Granada, bad for Forte, bad for Mercury Asset Management, but also bad for the City as a whole. I hate to see the City repeating its past mistakes, including all the foolishness of rash bids, big debts and short-term banking. That always ends in trouble, and it will again.

Of course, we have a pathetically weak City at the moment, after a badly botched recession, with a poorly led Bank of England, a disastrous Lloyd's, and most of our biggest merchant banks bust or sold. I cannot remember a time when the City seemed in worse shape in terms of its own management record. It is preposterous for the executives of such a City to be restructuring the rest of British industry; their own current record does not begin to qualify them to do the job.

The Government is not likely to be pleased; indeed it will lose out as well. The whole Granada scheme turns on a massive implausible proposal for tax avoidance, equal in value to 10 per cent of the total bid. The Treasury cannot possibly allow that to succeed, but the Government can still be embarrassed by its impertinence. It can also be embarrassed by the gratuitous demonstration that private enterprise in the modern City actually does mean short-term speculation, greedy fees, and industrial restructuring by non-industrial fund managers. Many takeovers do make good industrial sense, but this one has only a speculative logic. That is exactly what socialists have criticised the City for over the years; we did not need to have it demonstrated, or to have Granada throw away £1 billion. Destroy a good company, create a bad one, put in a bill for a few hundred million pounds, and then try to avoid the tax — that is modern City statesmanship.

Furthermore, the Government will probably lose some money on the deal. Granada still thinks it can avoid the capital gains tax. That will not happen. But there is another tax scheme in the special dividend proposal, which might well cost the taxpayer £40 million. If the City had any wisdom, and at present it has very little, the idea of making bids in tax avoidance form would be rejected instantly. When loopholes are closed, there is always a loss to genuine business. The City will pay for the Granada bid in higher taxes and in more regulations. Probably the institutions are going to accept this bid today. They will get what they deserve. They will get the over-leveraged conglomerate which Granada has decided to be. They will destroy one of Britain's major international companies. They will lose a big share of £1 billion for their investors. They will invite new and damaging scrutiny of the way that they manage funds. They will bring further discredit on the City. The trouble is that when people are very short-sighted, very stupid and very greedy, there is no way of saving them from themselves.

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WE'VE HAD A BIT OF A RETHINK...



... A BRAND NEW SLOGAN.



... AND WE'VE COME UP WITH...



MISTAKE HOLDING.



## Give the Yorks a break

The hounding of the Duchess is intended to force another divorce

I am too old and dignified for bungee-jumping, too law-abiding to parachute off the Hilton; and Suffolk lacks any local facilities for wing-walking or crocodile-wrestling. But one can still live dangerously. Today, alone and without a safety-net or body armour, I propose to say a few words in defence of HRH the Duchess of York.

This perilously dissident course of action has been forced on me by the fact that in all the torrent of words about her this past week there has been no serious attempt to say a kind one or even a fair one. In these dull, grey days after Christmas, the nation has warmed itself gladly at the flames of her burning.

The Palace seemed to give permission for this when it distanced itself from her in a swift and non-polite statement. The Duchess appears to believe that the original story about her debts also came from the Palace, or at the very least from those embarrassingly loyal "friends" it suffers from and who heartily wish her to be cut off from it legally and forever. Certainly it seems odd that the story of the overdraft, and the suggestion that she expected the Queen to pay, should have broken while the Duchess was actually involved in signing commercial deals to solve the whole mess. Someone must have wanted her to look bad, must they not? "Entrepreneurial Duchess solves debt problem with £3m deal" is not such a tasty story as "Selfish spendthrift Duchess in debt, expects Our Gracious Queen to bail her out".

Whatever chalk-striped lingo gave the first memoir the debt revelation has been followed by a frenzy of insult — not even intending, nothing so subtle. The easy opinion is that the Duchess of York is a good-time girl, a glutton, a waster, a blatant adulteress, mercenary self-publicist, lousy writer and bad dresser. As Lord Charteris is quoted as having said, "vulgar, vulgar, vulgar". She was accused of wanting to be a queen not of our hearts but our wallets: of being Freddie Fergie, letting down the frugal Queen. (Never mind that the whole history of royalty is a history of grabbing and excess, or that even in this century Queen Mary was famous for soliciting expensive gifts from her hosts' side-tables, so that they had to hide the side-tables when she visited. Fergie at least wrote the books before taking the money.)

And it never stops: the pack of mercenary media psychiatrists is called in to rake over her childhood (why are these people not struck off for giving opinions on patients they have not met?); journalists who haven't paid for a holiday in years intend to condemn her profligacy; newspapers which spend most of their time attacking single mothers on benefit suddenly find new-jerking things to quote from deserving ones who would love to have a fraction of Fergie's allowance; and from Lord Deane to Lord Deedes to Sir John Junor ("the sooner the Royal Family is shot of her the better"); the grandees shake their silver heads. Dreadful woman. She has to go.

They give her no credit for her good-humour, nor for her charity work or the fact that she scrupulously pays her own fares to it (though tellingly, an airline source observed that while she has the honesty to book first-class, the other royals book Club and "expect to be upgraded"). Critics

Some of the accusations are justified, but others are wild extrapolation, encouraged by the fact that she takes the sunny view of publicity and rarely shows any hostility towards the media in return. But everything she does is flung back at her as a weapon. When the reporters shouted "Are you on the breadline?" she tried a joke: "I don't eat bread". The ghost of Marie Antoinette was called up (a mistake, since decent historians agree that Marie Antoinette never said it, and was in fact much inclined towards welfare and reform). In one Sunday

see her awkward, bouncing tactlessness, but not the underlying honesty and directness. Nor do they register that the hostile whispers do not come from "friends" of her husband. This is not another Charles-and-Di case, a shameful public battle. The York children are not publicly pawns like their unfortunate cousins. All we know about Beatrice and Eugenie is that they are two little girls in hair-ribbons. It has probably helped that whenever the paparazzi do catch them on a school run, they are too busy snapping Fergie's latest pair of riotous leggings to notice the children. The princesses may have suffered the mild exploitation of being photographed in *Hello!* magazine to boost their mother's finances, but at least they do not get dressed up in opposing sets of clothes, tweed versus baseball-caps, for cynical photo-opportunities by warring parents. Nor do they have their intimate sadnesses paraded by the kind of mother who goes on *Panorama* and relates little personal stories about how her boy gave her a box of chocolates "because you've been hurt, Mummy". Though fifth and sixth in line to the Throne, these princesses' lives are surprisingly private. Even the holiday-making could be interpreted as protection for them: if the world's press is after you, it makes sense to choose a Thai beach rather than a cheap Spanish one.

Moreover, the Yorks have done their children a favour by continuing, throughout their separation, to meet, talk, dine publicly together and share Christmas morning. The Duke of York — even in the darkest period, the Johnny Bryan interlude — has never sanctioned any criticism of his wife; nor has she used any of her racy media appearances to bad-mouth him. They have done the hardest and most civilised of things, and stayed friends.

This says a great deal for the courage and understanding of the Duke of York, these days a modest and diligent naval officer. But it also

says something for his wife. How many couples could weather the chaotic tackiness, the mistakes, the public humiliation of the past few years with so little apparent bitterness? There is, if we could only see it, an example here, and one which is ironically topical.

For Parliament is about to discuss the divorce law reform Bill, and many noises will be made by statesmen and churchmen about the need for time and effort to "bring marriages back from the brink".

The great and the good — some of them the very ones who hate the Duchess — say that we must at all costs discourage any idea that the marriage contract is something to be thrown aside at the first difficulty, or even the second or third adultery. There must, they say, be mediation and long periods of reflection. And all the time, here in front of our eyes are a couple who for three years have carried on talking. It is rumoured that they were seriously discussing a full reconciliation just before last week's blaze of hostile publicity. The Duchess is said to believe that the two things are not unconnected: that those who want her out of the Royal Family have started this rumour on purpose to bounce the Queen into demanding another divorce. We are free to believe that or not. On balance, I think I do.

This is not a fan letter to the Duchess of York. She has in many respects been a fool; she has not played the mental illness card, but I suspect that she may have been at one stage more than a little disturbed in her judgment, and a prey to disastrous impulses and influences. But there is some credit due to her, and she does not get it.

She never has. Look back through the archives and you see that long before she did anything wrong, this royal bride alienated a certain very British, very repressive and repressed temperament which is heavily present in both media and Establishment. Her offence was not what she did but what she was: noisy and ebullient, informal and tactless, bumptious and vital. I am afraid that the offended people — alas, not all of them men — prefer their young women to be pale, sad, shy, starveling victims. Which is why the Princess of Wales will always have defenders whatever she does; and why the Duchess of York, whatever she does, will not.

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## A spectre haunting Labour

Anatole Kaletsky on the book behind Blair's big idea

Child prostitutes swarm the streets. The poor are dying of malnutrition and illiteracy is spreading like an epidemic. The factories are shuttered by greedy bankers, and their idle workers roam the world aimlessly, contemplating suicide. Those who cannot face death vent their anger through drugs or violence. The Government is a cockpit of lechery and corruption. Meanwhile the top-hatted "gentlemen capitalists" who have sucked the lifeblood from society plot to sell the country to foreigners.

Is this Weimar Germany before Hitler? Or the Philippines under Marcos? Come on, can't you recognise your own country? Doesn't this description remind you of Purley High Street on a Saturday afternoon?

I admit I have exaggerated a little. The book from which I have pieced together this account of today's Britain does not actually say that the "gentlemen capitalists" wear top hats. But everything else — including the reference to "the ugly growth of child prostitution" — is straight from the most important and successful book on British politics since 1979.

*The State We're In* by Will Hutton has sold 50,000 copies in paperback and has now soared to the top of the paperback bestseller lists. The latest surge in sales is hardly surprising, since the book offers the only detailed account of the "big idea" espoused by the man who will almost certainly run the next British government. But Hutton's book, the *locus classicus* of Tony Blair's "stakeholder capitalism", deserves an even bigger market, which I suspect it has not yet tapped. Indeed, if Tony Central Office had any sense, it would be buying millions of copies to send to wavering voters. For if Hutton's book reveals what Tony Blair really means by a stakeholder's Britain, it should be enough to terrify most of the moderate, sceptical, middle class.

Moderate voters with a knowledge of economics and finance will, I think, be shocked at how detailed and revolutionary is the blueprint of "stakeholderism": a Government direction of bank lending, compulsory worker directors on company boards, full employment rights for casual workers, rationing of mortgage lending, average tax rates of 50 per cent for the rich, renationalisation of pensions, and the "old Labour" idea of a state-owned national investment bank — all these figure prominently in Hutton's plans.

His book is suffused with a hatred of capitalism which would do Tony Blair proud — or even Karl Marx. Yet the greatest flaw from an economic standpoint is not his concentration on the failures of capitalism, but that he misses the biggest market failure of all. While Hutton devotes hundreds of pages to obscure theories of market efficiency and financial regulation, he virtually ignores the real reason why the Tory economic record must be counted a failure: the grotesque mismanagement of monetary and exchange-rate policy which led to the two deepest post-war recessions.

Successive Tory Chancellors, in the grip of dogmatic pre-Keynesian theories of monetarism, stubbornly refused to fight unemployment with pragmatic policies of demand management — at least until their hands were forced on White Wednesday.

Ironically, it is this same failure of macroeconomic policy that accounts for the parlous condition of the great stakeholder economies which Hutton and Blair would have Britain emulate — Germany, Japan and France. Meanwhile America, which has successfully embraced a policy of unabashed Keynesian demand management, is emerging clearly as the economic success of the 1990s. The tragedy of the stakeholder concept is that by making society cope better with high levels of unemployment, it actually seems to make people more tolerant of sado-monetarist deflation, and so reduces the pressure on governments to create jobs by stimulating growth.

But even more terrifying than Hutton's economics is the revolutionary fervour of what he describes as his "call to arms". Britain, in his view, is rotten from top to bottom. Almost everything that has happened in the 17 years of Tory rule has been an unmitigated disaster. From the Royal Family and the constitution to the management of the arts, Britain must submit to the purgative power of revolutionary destruction: "No state in the 20th century has ever been able to recast its economy, political structures and society to the extent that Britain must do without suffering defeat in war, economic collapse or revolution."

This, I suspect, is not the message that voters think they are hearing from "new" Labour. Tony Blair's common-sense pragmatism and apparent belief that many of the changes in Tory Britain have been for the better. Yet behind the bland technocratic "stakeholder" slogan there seems to lurk a longing to undo everything the Tories have done since 1979. Perhaps this is not what Mr Blair means, but in Will Hutton's hands, the stake is a sharp one — and it is aimed straight for the capitalist vampire's heart.

## Not joking

JOHN MAJORS' burly biographer, muse and supporter, Bruce Anderson, is not a man to pull punches when crushing insults are needed. Yet look below the rancour and you will find a sensitive soul. He is mortified by the suggestion that he laughs at jokes about John Major.

A letter he received from one Robert Schuettinger, an Oxford don who worked for the Pentagon in the Reagan era, harbours the recollection that Anderson "always laughed loudest at any humorous reference to Mr Major". The suggestion, offered for publication in *The Spectator* where Anderson is a columnist, is strenuously denied — and he replied to that effect immediately.

"This is a black lie. Not only is it a black lie it is a slanderous black lie, in that it accuses me of hypocrisy," he wrote. "I suspect that you had assistants who helped you... But you should beware the letter was offered under your name. Even a crushed catpaw can suffer acute pain."

"I am writing to warn you," he goes on, "if you ever repeat your slander... I will, without warning, send in my learned friends. They

will hack punitive damages out of your hide."

Anderson was sanguine yesterday. "If there is a topic on which I have a sense of humour failure, it's John Major," he said. "The letter suggests that I gibe at him behind his back while supporting him in public. It makes me appear a hypocrite." Frank Johnson, *The Spectator's* Editor, backs him up: "Bruce is about the only person in Britain who would not laugh at a joke about John Major."

SCHOOL — U-PUNT — LINE



Old hands were less than surprised that the Princess of Wales and her private secretary, Patrick Jephson, parted company yesterday. Flying back from her recent trip to Argentina, the Princess booked two first-class seats. She took one, her hairdresser took the other. Jephson was booted down to club class.

### Paris Match

JUST AS England lost by a whisker to the French at the weekend, so the Commons and Lords rugby team fell at the hands of the French National Assembly by just a single point.

Our parliamentarians managed to maintain their composure until after the game — but then a bum-fight broke out.

The Brits started lobbing bread rolls at the post-match dinner. Within minutes, baguettes were thrown in the air than Frenchmen on the field at the Parc des Princes. Lord Redesdale, the towering Liberal Democrat peer, hopped his second-row team-mate Jim Parson on the nose to dampen his enthusiasm. Parson was philosophical: "These things happen at four in the morning." Others were less charitable: "Redesdale was acting like a prefect who wanted to be head boy," complained a scrumwagger.



With offices in Belgravia and the Duke of Kent as its patron, the Ski Club of Great Britain isn't perhaps the first place one would look for train-spotters. But the club appears to be plumbing new depths in its search for members. Its new magazine on the Internet is called *Antrak*.

### Dry cellar

EMPTY TANKARDS are the sad sight at Gonville and Caius, the Cambridge college founded in 1348. The fellows have closed the cellar bar after a party there, organised by impostors, spiralled out of control.

The Fitzwilliam Vikings, a drinking society banned from its own berth, Fitzwilliam College, are being blamed for the disorder, which resulted in damaged prop-

erty and one student being found slumped unconscious in the porter's lodge. Dr Mark Bailey, acting senior tutor at Caius, says the closure was precipitated by the party. "This had particularly distressing consequences," he says. Not least for the Caius students who, with throats as dry as Bath Olivers, are planning revenge on Fitzwilliam.

On the stump yesterday for his new ultra-socialist party in the Hemsforth by-election, Arthur Scargill was dismissive of Tony Blair's stakeholder economy. "I have heard that it's suffering from BSE already," he said. Scargill is continuing to sign up radical blood — his latest recruit is called Serf, whose father was Britain's first Communist MP, Shapurji Saklatvala, in the 1920s.

### One's vote

NORMAN LAMONT's selection for Harrogate will come as a blow to the beleaguered Queen, for she came within a curtsy of seeing her own flesh and blood in the House of Commons. One of the two defeated candidates, Ian Liddell-Grainger, is of the monarch's line — a fact he coyly omitted from his curriculum vitae.

The Tyneside businessman is



Alice: long-lived

Her Majesty's second cousin. He is directly descended from Queen Victoria through his mother Anne, a grand-daughter of Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, who features in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the oldest ever royal — dying in 1981 aged 97. Longevity is in the blood, so he may be in with a second chance.

P.H.S



## HARRIET AND HYPOCRISY

But politicians have not always been so harshly judged

If the dashing young technocrat leading Labour had been Harold Wilson not Tony Blair, Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective school would not have made her position on the front bench so uncomfortable. Hypocrisy may always have been the compliment that vice has paid virtue; but it has not always been the most politically damaging of charges. Nor should it be.

The criticism which Harriet Harman has endured from her party (it has been no less wounding for being *sotto voce*) is one of the last relics of the Beninism that nearly sunk Labour in the early eighties. The changes wrought by the Left then, most notably the mandatory reselection of constituency members, meant MPs had to change from being all-too-human advocates for improvement to living advertisements for socialist virtue. The electorate may have been prepared to tolerate inconsistencies, frailties and dissent: party cadres would not.

The grip on Labour exerted by activists during the Eighties meant that even the most talented of aspirant MPs had to conform to prejudices which were common to party members but at variance with voters' priorities. Unilateralism and a united Ireland were just two touchstone issues. Even the candidate for Sedgfield in 1983 felt compelled to parade his CND card and argue withdrawal from Europe.

Before the hegemony of the hard Left Labour MPs found it easier to argue that ability mattered more than purity. Harold Wilson presided over a Government in which his Education Secretary, Tony Crosland, was trying to close every grammar school in the land. But he sent his own son to the fee-paying University College School in Hampstead. In the same Cabinet both Douglas Jay and Roy Jenkins sent their sons to Winchester. The political culture of the time made it easier to separate private conduct from public rhetoric. It was thought

not only possible, but often desirable, to judge an argument on its merits rather than with reference to the character of the apologist.

Most recently it has been the Tories, not Labour, who have suffered for practising what they have preached against. The collapse of "back to basics" since the tragicomic weller of scandal in the winter of 1994 not only exposed the dangers of politicians in the pulpit: it also showed how the Right was in danger of infection with the puritan rigour once the preserve of the Left. The Whiggish tolerance of personal permissiveness which once characterised the Conservatives and allowed elites their indulgences had been replaced by a new censoriousness.

Now Labour is in trouble. Ms Harman was left yesterday to draw the distinction between what she thought right for her son in the specific circumstances of Peckham in 1996 and the general benefits which Labour policy will bring Britain hereafter. Few are likely to have been convinced by her — except to the extent that she was right to put her child before politics. In the current climate, for which Labour is partly itself to blame, she has damaged her own prospects and those of her party for as long as its prejudiced education policy remains in force.

But perhaps she will hasten a relaxation of that policy. The Tories meanwhile should avoid harping too much on the hypocrisy theme. Man's fallen nature means even, and perhaps especially, the best of us are flawed and inconsistent creatures. Better to have principles and falter than abandon them for fear of being held a hypocrite. Better still to be true to a mother's heart than a politician's head. Better even to be a hypocrite on one principle than a parent who denied her child an opportunity in the name of socialist ideology. It would be a most ignoble sacrifice if she laid down his chances of a better life for the better chance of new Labour.

## RAIS ARAFAT

How to keep Hamas both down and out

There are several stories to relate from the first elections ever held by Palestinians for Palestinians. The first and most obvious tale is that of Yasser Arafat: he won, emphatically, the post of *rais* (or "leader") and is effectively the first President of Palestine. Neither "president" nor "Palestine" can be found as yet on any document to which the Israelis have lent their imprimatur; and there can be no assurance that either will win Israeli favour in the near future. Yet Mr Arafat and the Palestinians who live in their fractured territory have now entered a new phase in their history. The people of Israel enter that phase as well, for their country changes with every change in the status of the Palestinians by whose side they live.

The other important tale from the weekend's election concerns Hamas, the Islamic extremist party which boycotted the polls and urged its supporters to do so too. Its call, it appears, was widely ignored: in excess of 75 per cent of voters participated in the elections. That figure must constitute a stinging rejoinder for Hamas. Given that Yahya Ayyash, the alleged Hamas mastermind of several bombings in Israel, was killed only a few days ago — the party must have expected his death to strengthen the boycott — the turnout was high indeed. Hamas's decision to boycott the polls, when most psephologists predicted that the party might reap nearly 20 per cent of the votes cast, must today seem a blunder.

But is it a blunder for which we should be grateful? Mr Arafat was barely challenged in the race for *rais*: Samiha Khalil, his opponent, was such a poor match that this is one 98.1 per cent victory that we should not mock too readily. It is to the election of the Palestinian Legislative Council — which ran

parallel to the one that brought personal victory to Mr Arafat — that we must look for a more complete reading of the mood in Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr Arafat's Fatah faction may appear to have won a comfortable majority there, too. But beware of hasty analyses: early accounts show that nearly a third of the seats in the 88-member council have been won by independents who, in all cases, defeated an Arafat-sponsored Fatah candidate. This constitutes an impressive bloc of opposition after such a climate of intimidation, the gerrymandering, the last-minute changes to electoral rules and regulations and the absence from the contest of Hamas. Prominent independents include Haidar Abdel Shafi, the former chief Palestinian negotiator in talks with Israel; Hanan Ashrawi, than whom there are few in the region more articulate; and Abdel-Jawad Salih. There are others: these are only the three most prominent.

There is, in all this, a warning to be given. Hamas has its back to the wall: how will it react? A violent response might easily be predicted but its discomfiture today has a difference dimension. If it is not in a position of strength, this is not because a military blow was dealt to the party: it suffers instead from a form of popular rejection. Its call for a boycott was treated by ordinary Palestinians with appropriate contempt. Mr Arafat, Hamas's bitter opponent, has for the first time a mandate which is legitimate. How he uses that mandate will determine, in large part, the future of groups like Hamas. If he acts wisely, and ensures the swift emergence of a responsible administration, he will insulate his victory from future shock. If he does not, Hamas is still ready to haunt the peace process.

## ULTIMA HIBERNIA

The bull that is Erin, the grandeur that was Rome

Two fundamental axioms about Ireland that every schoolchild once learnt were that Ireland was free (a) from snakes and (b) from Romans. Both axioms now appear to be wild Irish bull. There are snakes in Ireland: the notion that St Patrick cleansed the Emerald Isle of reptiles is a pious myth. Dr Johnson asserted that the sentence "There are no snakes to be met with throughout the whole island" was a complete chapter in the natural history of Ireland. And he may have been pulling legs. Samuel's joke was ascribed to an imaginary volume on Ireland.

But at least every schoolchild knew that Ireland was supposed to have been the only European country to have been left out of the original Roman Empire. Until now the Irish were said to have escaped colonisation until Henry II and the Plantagenets arrived, having been granted imperial overlordship by Pope Adrian, followed by Tudors, Oliver Cromwell, settlers inside the pale and waves of Scots and English.

Until now the aboriginal Irish were supposed to have lived in a romantic Celtic twilight on the wild west outpost of the Roman empire, with their civilisation and culture uncontaminated by the rest of Europe. Great Gaels and wild myths ruled rather than conquerors. There are no references to the conquest of Ireland in classical literature. Any Roman artefacts found in Ireland have been explained as

imports by fast-talking, fast-running Irish dealers. Now Ireland's hidden Roman past has been exposed. A huge Roman coastal fort has been turned up at Drummanagh, 15 miles north of Dublin. It looks like a Roman beach-head built to support an invasion in the 2nd century. Coins have been found there from the reigns of Titus, Hadrian and Trajan, and jewellery and weapons have been taken to the museum in Dublin.

This site could be one of the discoveries of the century. It conforms to the Roman imperial strategy of the period of soldiering ever onwards to find secure frontiers. If confirmed, it will rewrite serious Roman history — and even Asterix and Celtic nationalism. Although this Roman connection has been known to archaeologists and the National Museum of Ireland for more than a decade, it has leaked out only now.

No doubt the Irish scholars wanted to secure the purchase of the site from its owner and perfect their research before they published. Perhaps they hoped to keep the lucrative secret from imperialist publishers. But the Irish should certainly not be ashamed that they too were part of the Roman Empire. Their Irish traditions of hard fighting, fine writing, classical scholarship, jokes and even rugby have often combined Celtic wildness with a fierce Roman discipline. It was always obvious that under the skin they were brothers as well as rivals of the other British.

## Use of juries in fraud trials

From Lord Donaldson of Lynton

Sir, I hope that any reconsideration of the use of juries in fraud trials (leading article, "In the dock", January 20) will not confuse complication with length.

In the absence of research, which I should welcome, we know nothing about the extent (if any) to which the traditional English jury has difficulty in deciding issues of guilt in complicated cases. The assumption is that most such cases turn in the end upon the jury being sure that the accused acted dishonestly, and I have no reason to doubt that this is an issue which a traditional jury is fully capable of deciding.

The traditional English jury consists of 12 men and women selected at random from the jury lists for the locality. Subject to any distortion due to the fact that there are only 12 jurors, each jury can be expected to be broadly representative of the inhabitants of the area. This is the jury which tries cases estimated to last up to three to four weeks.

Cases estimated to last months rather than weeks, such as the Maxwell trial (reports, January 20 and 22), are a relatively new phenomenon. They are not tried by traditional juries but by a new variety of the species, consisting of men and women specially selected for their ability to devote so much time to jury service. Inevitably they are those who would not otherwise be more gainfully occupied and who have no pressing commitments in the period of the trial. As such they are wholly unrepresentative.

The fact is that, perforce, we have already abandoned the traditional jury trial for long cases, whether or not they involve fraud. The issue is what we put in its place.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN F. DONALDSON  
(Master of the Rolls, 1982-92,  
House of Lords,  
January 22)

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, The hysterical reactions of some of the press to the acquittals in the Maxwell trial are unjustified. They appear to spring from a fundamental misconception of the criminal justice system.

On the one hand, it is claimed that the trial was a "fiasco", bringing the Serious Fraud Office into disrepute, because it resulted in acquittals of the defendants. The SFO was perfectly justified in bringing the proceedings: there was a *prima facie* case against them.

The fact that in due course the jury acquitted, after listening to all the evidence (including Mr Kevin Maxwell's for more than four weeks), submissions by counsel on both sides, and a summing up from one of the ablest judges on the Bench, does not mean that the original decision to prosecute was unjustified.

On the other hand, it is suggested that the fact of the acquittals imperils the continuation of the jury system in fraud cases. This suggestion, made by people who are unlikely to have heard all the evidence and submissions in the trial, implies that the jury were perverse in acquitting. That is a grossly patronising and unfair comment on the jurors who conscientiously fulfilled a burdensome public duty.

To suggest that the acquittals in the Maxwell case were unjustified is surely to fall into the trap described by Solzhenitsyn of equating accusation with guilt.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT RHODES,  
Littleton Building,  
3 King's Bench Walk North,  
Temple, EC4,  
January 22

From Mr Graham Pressler

Sir, If the Serious Fraud Office is to survive successfully its methods need seriously to be reviewed. It should at least have the power (such as exists with the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise) to agree compensation and penalties without need for a formal trial. And even where a custodial sentence is thought to be in the public interest, the SFO should have the right to negotiate the level to be recommended to the court (thus falling just short of the often criticised American model).

The Maxwell verdict may, as Lord Denning says (report, January 20), vindicate the jury system — and I have no misgivings about this verdict myself — but at such a cost that public interest would be better served by a form of alternative dispute settlement.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM PRESSLER,  
Pressler Parker Skone (solicitors),  
47-49 Lanchester Street,  
Scunthorpe, South Humberside.

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen

Sir, Some years ago you published a letter from a qualified accountant, to the effect that he had been a juror in a complicated fraud trial, and had been asked by his colleagues to decide the verdict for them, as they had been unable to comprehend the evidence and arguments: which he accordingly did.

Could there be plainer justification in such cases for the substitution of experienced assessors for jurors?

I am, etc.  
G. ELLENBOGEN  
(Deputy Circuit Judge, 1977-81),  
9 Montagu Square, W1,  
January 20.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Press reporting of mental distress

From Mr Tim Linehan

Sir, As an organisation which works to promote a wider understanding of mental health issues in the media, we were pleased to see Ruth Runciman challenge some of the myths and misreporting about the special hospitals ("Tell the truth about Broadmoor", January 17).

Ms Runciman's appeal to the Press Complaints Commission to adopt a more proactive role is a timely one.

At the end of last year we took two national daily newspapers (not including *The Times*) to the PCC on the ground that both papers had flouted section 15 of the code of practice which says:

The press should avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to a person's race, colour, religion, sex or sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or handicap.

The stories in question concerned a Mr Fahy who, unstopped by the police cordon, approached the Princess of Wales while she was visiting Liverpool. After speaking to her, he offered her a cigarette and asked for a kiss, which she duly gave him. The next day the papers discovered that Mr Fahy had a recent history of mental distress, sparked off, it appears, by the death of his father.

The papers described Mr Fahy as a "nutcase" (in both headlines, on the front page of both papers) a "weirdo" and a "crank". The PCC's response was that it did not consider the articles to be pejorative or prejudicial and that the descriptions were merely "a matter of taste", which the PCC does not rule on.

In effect, in our view, the PCC has sanctioned newspapers who mock and denigrate people for having experienced the trauma of mental distress. People with mental health problems face enough prejudice and hostility in

the community without the press joining in. They need, and deserve, the support of a more robust Press Complaints Commission to protect themselves from such abuse.

Yours faithfully,  
TIM LINEHAN  
(Media Relations Officer),  
Mental Health Media,  
The Resource Centre,  
356 Holloway Road, N7,  
January 19.

From Professor John Gunn

Sir, I welcome Lady Runciman of Duxford's plea for more balanced reporting about our special (high security) hospitals. As a forensic psychiatrist who works with mentally disordered offenders, some of them former special hospital patients, I know only too well the destructive effect the usual kind of English reporting has on patients and staff alike.

I say English reporting because I have recently been working in Scotland and have had to study newspaper reports concerning suicides by mentally disordered offenders in Scottish prisons. Not all the reports were entirely accurate and some gave a sensationalist slant, but on the whole the reporting was accurate and sensitive with a clear understanding of the social issues involved.

If I am right in my perceptions the question to be answered is why should such cross-border journalistic differences exist? Perhaps a journalist will venture to tell us.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN GUNN,  
Institute of Psychiatry,  
Department of Forensic Psychiatry,  
De Crespigny Park,  
Denmark Hill, SE5,  
January 18.

### Schools' role in moral education

From Mr Don Rowe

Sir, The Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks ("A school is a moral community", January 16), is right to emphasise the importance of education in the transmission of moral values to the next generation (see also leading article, January 16; letters, January 20). Families, of course, are vital in this, although they tend to transmit a narrow range of values. By contrast, schools are vitally important in helping to develop the idea that in a democratic society we must recognise and respect diversity where this does not impinge on a core of values embodying respect for the dignity and rights of others.

Moral education, in our view, should be about developing the skills of moral thinking, through which this core of values is not obscured but reinforced; and it should begin with primary children. We have initiated a primary-school project, "You, Me Us", which has been shown to have improved the moral awareness of 80 children who have used the programme compared with those who have not.

Teachers are second to none in their concern for the moral health of pupils because every day they live with the consequences of selfish, brutal behaviour; but we trust that the Government will realise that this kind of moral education is the most difficult of all educational tasks, and that teachers need proper training for it and dedicated curriculum time.

Yours sincerely,  
DON ROWE,  
The Citizenship Foundation,  
Weddel House,  
13 West Smithfield, EC1.

From Mr Sergei Kadleigh

Sir, Perhaps maxims would be more appropriate than commandments. For example, something like the last

five of the 150 maxims enshrined at the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, defining the virtue of an ideal Greek at the time of the birth of our civilisation: "In childhood learn good manners; in youth learn to control your passions; in middle age learn to be just; in old age learn to be a wise council; die without regret."

Yours faithfully,  
SERGEI KADLEIGH,  
Flat B,  
12 Miles Road, Clifton, Bristol,  
January 16.

From Ms Sarah Wehner

Sir, I was both amazed and amused to see punctuality listed as one of the potential modern "Ten Commandments".

I pride myself on being punctual but have never rated it as more than a common courtesy on a par with good personal hygiene or not picking one's nose in public. I would love to hear the philosophical arguments which could raise being on time to the lofty heights of a moral virtue.

Yours faithfully,  
SARAH WEHNER,  
30 Gordon Road, Canterbury, Kent,  
January 17.

From Mr W. Turner

Sir, The Ten Commandments may be regarded as anachronistic, but perhaps the National Curriculum might include Arthur Hugh Clough's *The Lesser Decalogue* (published 1862). The Government would surely endorse: Thou shalt not covet; but tradition Approves all forms of competition.

Yours faithfully,  
W. TURNER,  
44 Tower Road,  
Twickenham, Middlesex,  
January 16.

### Children in pubs

From the Director of the British Institute of Innkeeping

Sir, The anti-alcohol lobby is completely over-reacting in its objections to children being rewarded by their schools for good behaviour with vouchers to enjoy a meal with their families in the pub (report, January 11).

In many cases going out for a meal is one of very few occasions when the whole family does sit down together to eat. The idea that this "will initiate children into the whole psychology of drinking" is absurd.

Children are not allowed to drink in pubs. Except where a special certificate has been applied for, they are not even allowed in the bar. Most pubs which welcome families create special child-friendly zones with appropriate activities, special menus and soft drinks available.

We could do worse than follow the example of our continental neighbours whose children grow up to accept moderate alcohol consumption as normal behaviour.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY CURNOCK COOK,  
The British Institute of Innkeeping,  
Wessex House,  
80 Park Street, Camberley, Surrey,  
January 11.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## Burns song auld but not so true

From Mr D. J. M. Mitchell

Sir, In the bicentenary year of the death of Robert Burns the new 60p stamp (picture, January 18) does the Post Office no credit.

In addition to writing poetry Burns was a keen collector and brilliant adapter of traditional songs, and contributed to various miscellanies including Thomson's. Many versions, as of "the red, red rose" (25p) are superior to the originals, so he is fairly credited with authorship. Not so of *Auld Lang Syne* (60p).

Provenance is clear from his letter to the song-collector George Thomson in September 1793:

The air is but *mediocre* (his own emphasis); but the following song, the old song of olden times, and which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript, until I took it down from an old man's singing (my emphasis), is enough to recommend any air.

He neither wrote it nor claimed to have. He is a great enough maker in his own right not to need false attributions and the excesses of a (non-literary) cult. They serve only to belittle all that went before and frustrate all that might yet come.

What do the Post Office and Messrs Taylor McIlroy Coates, the design company, offer — designer-history or "poetical correctness"?

Yours slye,  
DAVID MITCHELL,  
7 Castle Street, Kirkcudbright,  
January 18.

### BT regulation

From Mr I. K. C. Ellison

Sir, I was partly responsible for the fair-trading rules applied to BT under the Telecommunications Act and cannot allow John Butler, BT's Director of Regulatory Affairs, to claim (letter, January 10) that the proposals of the Director General of Telecommunications involve "sweeping and unprecedented new powers", or that they would expose BT to orders which could not be appealed.

The Act and BT's licence already give Mr Don Cruickshank, acting alone, the power to decide any question about whether BT preferences or discrimination are "undue" or whether favours to its own businesses are "unfair". He can also "order" BT to end such preferences or discrimination.

But Mr Cruickshank's orders have no direct effect on BT unless BT does not obey them. Even then nothing can be done until after someone affected by BT's contravention applies for damages in the courts, or until after they or Mr Cruickshank apply for an injunction.

BT can oppose such applications and could ask the courts to quash an order if Mr Cruickshank exceeded his powers. The same procedures would apply if Mr Cruickshank implemented his proposals.

BT is simply wrong to claim that there is no appeal if Don Cruickshank "got the facts wrong or his position was mistaken".

Yours faithfully,  
IAN ELLISON,  
(Assistant Secretary,  
Telecommunications Division,  
Department of Trade and Industry,  
1982-85),  
Beeton Hill House,  
Beeton, Newbury, Berkshire,  
January 10.

### Endangered species?

From Mr Peter Wade

Sir, I was hoping that your report about the death of the last native speaker of the Catawba tribe had been mixed with the fact that the Young Conservatives' membership had steeply declined from more than 500,000 twenty years ago (reports, January 16; letters, January 22).

At this rate there will need to be government funding to preserve the last of the species before it becomes extinct. At the very least they should form a support group.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER WADE,  
70 Heath Road,  
Lewden, Colchester, Essex.

From Mr G. M. Wedd

Sir, The Catawba language should have been pronounced dead when the last speaker but one died. Surely it was then that the great silence fell.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE WEDD,  
The Lodge, Church Hill,  
High Littleton, Somerset,  
January 16.

### Out on a limb?

From Mrs David Brown

Sir, Those who wish Scotland to have an Assembly, or even a Parliament, in Edinburgh should be wary. A recent telephone call to the Scottish Tourist Board office in London produced the startling news that there was no available information on Edinburgh, as they "only covered Scotland".

Fortunately, they gave me an Edinburgh telephone number, where help was immediate and comprehensive — but I hesitated to ask about secession.

Yours faithfully,  
PRISCILLA BROWN,  
Guston, Chelwood Gate,  
Haywards Heath, Sussex,  
January 18.





## Rodney Hobson discovers British inventiveness is still a flourishing business

## 'Blue Peter' past leads to Smart affiliation

JOHN NOAKES, the former BBC *Blue Peter* presenter, has been recruited to help with a high-profile campaign to encourage more small firms to enter the annual Smart competition that offers small technology organisations up to £45,000 for promising new projects. The announcement was made by Ian Taylor, Science and Technology Minister at the Department of Trade and Industry.

So far, 2,000 companies have been awarded grants totalling £95 million. Smart awards to fund feasibility studies are available to companies with up to 50 employees. Spur awards of up to £170,000 to help to put ideas into production are extended to firms of up to 250 employees. Some can be topped up with European Union grants.

Mr Taylor presented awards to 14 of the outstanding ideas in the Smart and Spur programme: Radox Laboratories, of Northern Ireland, for the development of test kits for HIV and for pollutants in animal and plant products; Novocast Laboratories, of Newcastle upon Tyne, for work on antibodies; Pixel Power, of Cambridge, which developed TV graphics and ADM Index, of Bradford, for a high-temperature plastic heat exchanger. Other awards went to: Balbox, of Brackley, Northamptonshire; Optimised Controls, of Bristol; Zeta Controls, of Oxford; Pathtrace Engineering Systems, of Reading; and Julia Schofield Consultants, of Richmond upon Thames.

A CODEBREAKER who worked on cracking Germany's Enigma system during the Second World War has helped to devise a way of stopping goods disappearing off the back of delivery lorries.

A small box that can identify when a load has been tampered with has won Encrypta Electronics of Newport, Gwent, recognition as one of the outstanding successes in the Department of Trade and Industry's Smart and Spur awards to promote British inventions.

Mark Hayward, now Encrypta's sales and marketing director, was working for Marks & Spencer ten years ago when the problem of leather jackets being pilfered from consignments set him thinking.

He says: "Retailers generally will not admit how much is being stolen but it is estimated that between 1 and 5 per cent of turnover is lost in what is euphemistically known as shrinkage. Marks & Spencer was losing £50 million a year. It was like trading for a whole week without making a profit. They made a big effort to cut theft and reduced the loss by 10 per cent. That was £5 million a year saved."

Mr Hayward approached his father, who had served at Bletchley Park, the famous espionage centre during the war. Together, father and son devised a sturdy box of electronics the size of a brick that sticks to the back of a lorry. It is connected to the door handle so that if the door is opened or closed a random four-digit number is displayed.

When the lorry reaches its destination, a button reveals the number shown when the door was last closed. If that number is different from the one recorded at the start of the journey, then the load has been



Coded message: Mark Hayward displays one of the matchbox-sized Encrypta locking systems developed with his codebreaker father

tampered with in transit. In more sophisticated models the random number is stored with the time and date of the operation so that management can monitor when the doors were opened over several days to identify when any unauthorised opening took place.

Mark Hayward says it cost Marks & Spencer £175,000 to equip all its lorries with the device but the

annual saving was at least three times that. Sainsbury's has recently tested the boxes on 20 lorries and found that theft from those vehicles was lower than for the lorries without the box.

He says: "It is not a preventive device like a key, it is a deterrent. Keys can be compromised and they delay the turnaround of the vehicle. Retailers do not want to hold up

vehicles when 90 per cent of drivers are honest. It's the few that are dishonest that they want to control. If they are weeded out then losses will be reduced."

With the help of a Smart award, the company has developed a smaller device the size of a matchbox for use on bank cash bags. Encrypta now has 40,000 devices in operation in areas rang-

ing from Alaska to the tropical jungles of Malaysia. About 30 per cent of output is exported.

One client is the US Government, which is shipping all the materials needed to build a new embassy in Moscow. To prevent bugging devices being inserted, Encrypta boxes are attached to reveal if the crate has been opened in transit.

□ The Millennium Commission has rejected a £50 million application to refurbish 1,000 village halls, including adapting some as telecottages, the technology-equipped centres used by small businesses. It has, however, said it is committed to hall improvement. Revised proposals are to be submitted this month by the charity Action with Rural Communities in England (AcRe), with the Telecottages Association's support.

□ More support by banks for small businesses is urged in a survey of 130 enterprise agencies. In the survey by the National Federation of Enterprise Agencies, most members called for more soft loan schemes and other loans and training incentives, and some said bank staff should be more aware of the needs of small businesses. Most agencies believed that government support for start-ups was lacking, and 42 per cent found procedures for obtaining government help were tied up in too much red tape.

□ Businesses using the NatWest Relay scheme, under which payments of up to £2,000 are transferred to a foreign customer's account inside six days for a flat fee, can now reach Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Sweden and Switzerland. The scheme already applies to Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Irish Republic, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United States.

□ Black Horse Life, a Lloyds Bank subsidiary, has introduced a life assurance policy to protect loans taken out by small businesses. BusinessCover is aimed at sole traders and partnerships that may be unable to clear a loan if an owner-manager dies, or is taken seriously ill.

□ A course to help small and medium-sized businesses to improve performance through better use of information technology, including the Internet, is being run by the South London Training and Enterprise Council at Fairfield Hall, Croydon, on February 7. Cost: £25 plus VAT; details 0277 763414.

□ Companies with a £1 million turnover spend about £50 a day on red tape, reports a survey of hundreds of small businesses by the British Chambers of Commerce. Companies complained to researchers that the demands of VAT, PAYE and National Insurance reduced the time available to run a business, stunted growth and profits, and restricted employment.

## Making a success of bending ideas into new shapes

AROUND the world, big-time gamblers put their money into David Bellis's machine first. His company, Innovative Technology, of Oldham, Lancashire, makes machines that check whether banknotes are genuine. More than 90 per cent of production is exported, mainly to check notes before they are put into gaming machines.

Mr Bellis took early retirement in 1991 from a coin control company and set out to design a similar machine for banknotes that was cheaper than rival products but could handle a wide range of banknotes. His design used a curved lens that focused visible and infra-red light more sharply.

The entry slot for the notes is curved. Inspiring customers to call the product "Smiley" and the name has been registered. Mr Bellis said: "Sometimes the most ingenious ideas are the least complicated."

Farmers have been able to raise yields thanks to RDS Technology, which used the US Defence Department's satellite system to pinpoint variations in output from various parts of the same field. Richard Danby, managing director of the Gloucestershire company, said: "Fields are drilled at a constant rate, fertilised at a constant rate and sprayed at a constant rate. It has been blanket coverage. But any field varies

enormously in its soil type, weed coverage and hence its yield. There can be a threefold variation in a single field."

By feeding the results of a harvest into a computer, farmers can be told how to vary production methods to produce the highest yield from each part of the field.

At Reelie Manufacturing they are more down to earth, sorting the stones from the clouds with giant riddlers costing £30,000 each. They are used to improve the production of root crops such as potatoes and carrots.

Roof Scott, development engineer, said: "The big stores are calling the tune in terms of quality of produce. With stones removed from the soil, the vegetables grow bigger and straighter."

Freddie Brown's invention can be seen working at B&Q do-it-yourself stores. His forklift truck bends in the middle, making it ideal for stacking goods on shelves in narrow gangways. Mr Brown saw that the range of trucks built by Translift Engineering in Redditch, Hereford & Worcester, was coming to the end of its life and began work on developing the Bendi range, which can operate in aisles as narrow as 5ft, stacking to a height of 27ft.

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All-round contribution sees Teddy Five move into contention as £50,000 race heats up

# Transfer moves essential to Bare's success

The battle for the Interactive Team Football (ITF) title is beginning to take shape. Kevin Kickers are still snarling after being bumped down to second place by Gohls Gods 65 for the third consecutive week while Teddy Five have just about claimed third place.

Gohls Gods have extended their lead to 18 points while Teddy Five lie 22 points behind the Kickers and are being pushed hard by Jones Boys 6, a mere two points behind. Teddy Five, managed by Bruce Bare—obviously a man with a sense of humour as well as a keen eye for football form—is very much a team effort.

There are few superstars, no big-money buys, just 11 players who consistently turn up the points.

The most expensive player is Gary McAllister, of Leeds United, at £4 million. The Scotland international midfielder has racked up 40 points for the side, the highest individual score, but has had a mixed season with Bare. McAllister was brought in a couple of weeks after the season started, dropped three weeks later and recalled to the fray only in December for the Christmas fixtures. However, after the thrashing of Leeds United by Liverpool on Saturday, it could be that McAllister's days are numbered.

Bare has been ruthless in the transfer market. Martin Keown, of Arsenal, was in and out in the early stages of the season before fading from view in October, while only Lee Dixon, of Arsenal, and Warren Barton, of Newcastle United, have been regulars.

Teddy Five comprises: Southall (Everton), Barton (Newcastle United), Dixon (Arsenal), Cooper (Nottingham Forest), Peacock (Liverpool), Filcroft (Manchester City), McAllister (Leeds United), Ebbrell (Everton), McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers), Shipperley (Southampton) and Clark (Nottingham Forest).

Manchester United's match



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



against West Ham United last night brought a flurry of activity. With no points to come from Old Trafford on Saturday, out went Alex Ferguson and Nicky Butt to be replaced by Frank Clark and Gary Filcroft. Between them on Saturday they scored just one point, but anything is better than nothing when there is £50,000 at stake.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is

up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prize.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and David Buss, of Coventry City, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £7 million on Andy Cole—but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose your points. With Gohls Gods 65 setting the pace, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01583 483 122.



Barnes, of Liverpool, has contributed 30 points to Teddy Five's total. Can he maintain his strike-rate now that the gloves are off in ITF?

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF			
All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.			
POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scored goal	1pt
Scored goal	3pts	All players	1pt
Full back/central defender	3pts	Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	3pts
Scored goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player	3pts	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scored goal	3pts		
POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	3pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	3pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/central defender	3pts	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scored own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	3pts
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

\* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match. † Must have played for 45 minutes in the match.

### HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

\* Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Resp. 50p.

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631.

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' two-digit codes.

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are live week matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category—for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when he transfers in. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out:

Player in:

Club:

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF			
Code	Player	IN	Value
40909	N Quashie	Club	£0.75m
41108	M Walters	Southampton	£1.5m
Code	Player	OUT	Value
21103	G Hall	Club	£0.50m
40406	M Walters	Liverpool	£1.5m

## THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Gohls Gods 65	(Mr B Gohls)	446	101	Brill Boys	(S Dunn)	347	182	Vesuvio	(G Bachelard)	341
2	Kevin Kickers	(K James)	426	102	Bohnen Forest	(S Dunn)	347	183	Albionville	(A R Jackson)	341
3	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bare)	406	103	Kaouan Raiders 2	(Mr A Shari)	347	184	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	341
4	Jones Boys 65	(M L Jones)	402	104	Manford United	(J Musford)	347	185	Peterson's Dreamers	(M Peterson)	340
5	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	398	105	Praser Dribblers	(G Grahame)	347	186	Jap 11	(J Parlin)	340
6	Secret And Stubbs	(K Booth)	391	106	Talghlight United	(P C Dismore)	347	187	All Stars	(C Jones)	340
7	Aberspura	(G Shand)	389	107	K Vipers	(K Vipers)	346	188	Championia	(T Hobbie)	340
8	Phyco And Smith	(K Booth)	383	108	Abeyrath Villa	(J S Dismore)	346	189	Always Hope	(Mr R Foster)	340
9	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	382	109	Woolley Bears	(S Coates)	346	190	Orbital Smashers	(Mr S Broome)	340
10	Stevens Lions 7	(S Brewer)	380	110	Guise Hens FC	(E Scudetto)	346	191	Nightmares	(G J Strickland)	340
11	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Conway)	379	111	The Marghams	(A Cragg)	346	192	Bad Losers FC	(P Bayley)	340
12	Fergus Fly	(J Nichol)	377	112	Sky Blue Flyers	(R G Foster)	346	193	No Hoppers	(S Harris)	340
13	Stevens Lions 6	(S Brewer)	375	113	Very Forward	(A Foster)	346	194	Dorothy's Dream	(H Maffie)	340
14	Kisspurs Five	(E Kishy)	375	114	The Cakes Eaters	(Mr S Hughes)	346	195	Spurly	(M Reddick)	339
15	Fair Fair Flapjacks	(C Woodward)	374	115	Salley Reserves	(Mr M Wask)	345	196	Avenue Unleashing Unit	(K D Balfour)	339
16	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	373	116	Robbo's Army	(P Callaghan)	345	197	Janet's Giants	(J Stewart)	339
17	Rooley Supers	(K Booth)	372	117	Boogie Masters	(S Robinson)	345	198	Hans Hotspurs	(H Khan)	339
18	Strangers	(Mr G Banks)	372	118	The Mighty Donkies	(Dr Hall)	345	199	The Phantoms	(Z Mohammed)	339
19	Jessica's Darlings 4	(Mr A Nadsen)	372	119	They're Here	(Mr J Johnson)	345	200	Spirit Ltd	(P Mason)	339
20	Apollon 2	(S Lazaros)	372	120	Praser Stagers	(P Green)	345	201	The Solboys	(D Hobbie)	339
21	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P Johnson)	371	121	Kings Elbow	(J Green)	345	202	Champion Jaspers	(J Hobbie)	339
22	Percy Progress	(M Persch)	370	122	Oonahabumston	(Mr D Clarke)	345	203	The Locksters	(D Lock)	339
23	Stevens Lions 4	(S Brewer)	370	123	Natz Lions	(N Brown)	344	204	Seacalge FC 4	(S Adams)	339
24	Stevens Lions 1	(S Brewer)	370	124	Praser Allstars	(D Middleton)	344	205	FA Allstars United	(S Dismore)	339
25	Rescue City	(J Sanderson)	369	125	Keagoo Crusaders	(S Armstrong)	344	206	Map 5	(M Piesley)	339
26	Who Needs Mark	(N Persch)	369	126	Pete's Star Team	(Mr P Mason)	344	207	Amulago Sharks FC	(C Walker)	339
27	Dragons Dribblers	(A J Phibson)	369	127	Mr A Mugs Gower	(S Armstrong)	344	208	Keagoo Four	(E J Kishy)	339
28	Al's Alcomers	(A Hancock)	369	128	Almestars Team	(K Booth)	344	209	110 Percent	(M C Doherty)	339
29	Jones Boys Four	(M L Jones)	368	129	Santa All Stars	(J Hedges)	344	210	Kirby's Girls	(K Magee)	339
30	Razor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)	368	130	Razz Rovers	(J Allen)	344	211	The UK Seavers	(J Elkins)	339
31	Saltburg United	(Mr P J Davies)	368	131	Wylas Great Team	(M Faglin)	343	212	Spartan Park	(M Braden)	339
32	Laytons Lions	(Mr R Layton)	368	132	Wylas FC	(S Baidist)	343	213	Mewon The Person	(S Blane)	339
33	Jacobbook FC	(Mr A P Jacobbook)	368	133	JK's Dolphins	(J F Kichen)	343	214	Lickly Winner	(L A Vaughan)	338
34	Parfick Thistle	(C Nicol)	368	134	Forbury Flyers	(A Norton)	343	215	Long Drive	(I Parker)	338
35	Burnwell United	(R Benham)	368	135	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	343	216	Check Your Head Unit	(Mark Adamson)	338
36	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donovan)	368	136	Edge Wham	(M D Warner)	343	217	Galton Forest	(Mr I Godwin)	338
37	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	364	137	Phyco Pirates	(R R Fitzpatrick)	343	218	New Bales Eleven	(R P Crook)	338
38	The Young Guns	(B Shepherd)	364	138	Don Shuter C	(D Shuter)	343	219	Phonix 2nd XI	(N S Haller)	338
39	Cameron Athan	(Mr J R Reader)	364	139	Real Madras FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	343	220	Atlantis FC	(E Halliday)	338
40	Tommy Goodies XI	(Mr P Johnson)	364	140	The Micks Fiblad	(R J Darnell)	343	221	Death Of Glory	(A T Davies)	338
41	Nights Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	364	141	Gully OJ	(J Aldous)	342	222	No Way Thru's 5	(Mr AL Sydenham)	338
42	Razall 3	(D Shuter)	363	142	Aut-Salts	(J Lowson)	342	223	Selkies United	(Mr T Armitage)	338
43	XP Fantasy Team 4	(K R Patel)	361	143	The Confusers	(Mr D J Farnen)	342	224	Jovial Unit	(Mr M Hurs)	338
44	Good Times United	(Mr T Stabelford)	360	144	Yee Blue Waves	(Mr S Tye)	342	225	Real Athletic	(Mrs G Keynes)	338
45	No Fear Ltd	(G Saunders)	359	145	Thailand Tornado	(C Purney)	342	226	Escallators	(N Eccott)	338
46	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	359	146	London's Longshots	(C Loudon)	342	227	Switcheroo	(A Richardson)	338
47	Gulford Marching	(Mr J M Hames)	359	147	PIG Pundit	(P Francis)	342	228	The Lodge	(S Pang)	338
48	Nobby One	(A Brown)	359	148	Gohls Gods 73	(Mr B Gohls)	342	229	FC FC	(Mr C Head)	338
49	Scot Ltd	(S Scolluck)	359	149	Parfick Thistle	(C Nicol)	342	230	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	338
50	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	359	150	Ruehall Rabbits	(J Whitley)	341	231	Jackies Title	(T Gregory)	338
51	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	358	151	Tony's All Stars	(A Boyland)	341	232	DM 001	(D McGregor)	338
52	The Lively Lads	(G Poddar)	358	152	Mean Machine	(Ramesh Patel)	341	233	Jungle Nation	(R J Pegg)	337
53	Carling XI	(P Parke)	358	153	Southwest Stars	(K Brown)	341	234	OHME	(R Matthews)	337
54	Counting Eleven	(S Evans)	357	154	Burrows Donsiders	(M Fint)	341	235	Accrington Office	(Mr M Raju)	337
55	Chip N Dale XI	(Mrs E L Arrowsmith)	357	155	Gay Rovers	(K Smith)	341	236	Kaisers Champions	(Mr K Chisholm)	337
56	Monster Monkeys	(M Webb)	357	156	Dukess City	(S G Anson)	341	237	Salles Golden Playe	(S Sullivan)	337
57	No Sam Today	(P Turner)	356	157	Widlers Wanderers	(Mr A F Wiles)	341	238	Fitts Ltd	(P Dowson)	337
58	Turners Earners	(M Prestley)	356	158	Dream Team	(J Veltman)	341	239	Freedom XI	(P Mannie)	337
59	Map 9	(P Hanna)	355	159	Raggle's Reds	(J Veltman)	341	240	Map 5	(M Dale)	337
60	Mortan	(T Sigsworth)	354	160	The Others	(J Veltman)	341	241	The Glory Boys	(M Piesley)	337
61	Le Socks	(J Aldous)	354	161	Woodstock XI	(J Veltman)	341	242	Journeysmen	(A Jordan)	337
62	Kins Kickers	(G Sander)	354	162	Widlers Wanderers	(Mr A F Wiles)	341	243	Badman F	(D Mulholland)	337
63	Foston Rangers	(J Lees)	354	163	Widlers Wanderers	(Mr A F Wiles)	341	244	Alla Tatan Army	(A Gordon)	337
64	Widlers Wanderers	(K Booth)	354	164	Widlers Wanderers	(Mr A F Wiles)	341	245	Moneybags United	(P Ebridge)	337
65	The Wipe One Too	(A Nelson)	354	165	Widlers Wanderers	(Mr A F Wiles)	341	246	The Rainbow Connect	(G Weiss)	337
66	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	353	166	Widlers Wanderers	(Mr A F Wiles)	341	247	The Respect Race	(L Jarvis)	337
67	Jeagoo Thistle	(J Hunt)	353	167	Widlers Wanderers	(Mr A F Wiles)	341	248	Racing Club Hamel	(N R Alza)	337
68	Score A Shells	(S A E Langham)	347	168	Widlers Wanderers	(Mr A F Wiles)	341	249		(S Williams)	337

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## The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	2m	Pts	Wk Ov
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+4	+3
10102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1	+2
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+4	-13
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+5	+21
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	0	-11
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	-8	-1
10601	P Smicsek	Newcastle United	3.00	-4	+5
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Halsey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-4	+1
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dylkham	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-4	-25
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	+4	+2
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	S Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-1	-10
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hiltchcock	Chelsea	1.00	+2	+1
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-4	+14
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-32
11302	C Wood	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-5	-6
11401	L Mikolajko	West Ham United	2.50	0	-13
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
11501	M Southall	Everton	2.50	-4	+2
11502	J Keaton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-21
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Fitt	Coventry City	1.50	0	-55
11701	A Coton	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Immet	Manchester City	2.50	+4	-9
11801	M Bonlich	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	-28
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-1
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-3	-5
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-3	-57
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	2m	Pts	Wk Ov
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+4	+22
20102	G La Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+4	+32
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	0	+13
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	-1	-1
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	+7	+26
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4	+16
20303	N Headland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-12
20401	R Jordan	Liverpool	3.00	+4	+27
20402	S Bjornneby	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4
20403	S Markness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+28
20501	T Dorico	Leeds United	3.50	0	+11
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+11
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	-4	-2
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+13
20602	M Hogg	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	+1	+24
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+9
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+3	+3
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	+25
20704	D Kennelake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+6
20801	D Bradbury	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-2	-7
20802	R Brarwell	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-3
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	-1
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	+3	-11
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	+15
21002	F Benall	Southampton	1.00	0	+4
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0	+10
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	+4	+8
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21103	G Hall	Chelsea	0.50	0	+9
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	-1	+15
21105	T Pheasant	Chelsea	1.50	+3	+3
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+17
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+30
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	1.50	0	-1
21203	S Morrow	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-4
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-8
21303	P Alton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-1
21304	D Stankovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-1
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	0	+2
21402	T Brauckner	West Ham United	3.00	0	-12
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	0
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	+8
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	-1	+10
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+10
21504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0	-2
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	0	-3
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-19
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+34
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	0	+3
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+38
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-3
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	-1	+21
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	-2	+28
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+2
22001	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	-1	-9
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1	-14
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-8
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-8
22005	S McAineple	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1

Code	Name	Team	2m	Pts	Wk Ov
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	+4	+27
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3
30103	N Markie	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+3
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+4	+19
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	0	+13
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0	+16
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0	-1
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+4	+24
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+3	+10
30401	F Babo	Liverpool	3.00	+4	+20
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	+9	+29
30403	J Scalls	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+19
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	0	+21
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	-4	+11
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	-4	+9
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0	-1
30504	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+1
30505	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.50	0	+4
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	+2	+14
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+24
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+23
30701	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+20
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+12
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-1
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0



Busst, the Coventry City defender, made a wise investment in securing McManaman, of Liverpool, for his ITF team

## Little spark from Cole

I STARTED out with the idea of an all-out attacking side. I wanted Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand and then I discovered that they would cost me £18 million. Once I had spent that much, I could not get a team together — I could not afford one.

The next option was to go for a strong midfield and a cheap back four. Dave Watson and David Unsworth were cheap at £5 million each, and Everton do not concede many goals. They are a good partnership, so that was the central defence sorted out.

I have always admired Steve Clarke. There are a few unsung heroes in the Premiership and he is one of them. I picked him because he is consistent. Having said that, I picked him on his record last season: this season, he has not played as much because of injury.

Sol Campbell is a bit of a bonus. I had forgotten that I had him in the side. I have selected him as a full back but he has been anchoring the midfield for a lot of this season, which gives him more chances to score points. I like Sol, he is a good all-rounder, he is a good manager and you can put him anywhere.

My front two are not doing too well although they have picked up a bit recently. Andy Cole has not done as well as I thought he would, and I think I have been duped by Brian Little over Milosevic. It has taken a long time for

David Busst, of Coventry City, is finding his ITF hopes hindered by a lack of goals

Milosevic to settle to the pace of English football. I think he has scored only about nine goals and five of them were against us. If I am going to win the league, I think that Milosevic will have to play us every week.

Steve McManaman has been my best buy. He was a bit cheaper than Cole and has scored more points. Maybe I should ask Cole for a refund — or let him score when we play United. I have always admired McManaman, he has such good balance.

My Interactive Team Football (ITF) team is called Cadbury's Busst. I like chocolate and I was hoping for a bit of sponsorship. I think Milosevic will go because he has not doing enough. As they are around the same price, I would like to bring in Dwight Yorke or Tommy Johnson, two of his Villa team-mates. I have been impressed with them. Yorke works hard and he is very skilful — it is a pity I knocked him out when we played them.

## BUSST'S SELECTION

Goalkeeper: M Crossley (Nottingham Forest) £2.5m

Full backs: S Campbell (Coventry City) £1.5m

Centre backs: D Unsworth (Everton) £2.5m

Defenders: D Watson (Sheff Wed) £2.5m

Midfielders: A Impey (Coventry City) £1.5m

Strikers: D Bailey (Blackburn) £1.5m

Manager: A Cole (Aston Villa) £7m

Goalkeeper: R Atkinson (Coventry City) £1.5m

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Defenders: D Watson (Sheff Wed) £2.5m

## NEWS

## Harman says she will not quit

■ Harriet Harman fought back against an avalanche of hypocrisy charges with an emotional defence of her decision to send her son to a grammar school. She said she was acting in the child's best interests.

Ms Harman's choice of school for her son, Joseph, has torn her party in two in the worst internal row of Tony Blair's leadership. But the Shadow Health Secretary insisted: "I have not discussed my resignation"..... Pages 1, 2, 8

## Princess's private secretary resigns

■ The Princess of Wales lost the last of her senior aides when Patrick Jephson, her private secretary resigned. The Princess has also received a demand that she withdraw remarks she allegedly made concerning Victoria Legge-Bourke, the Prince of Wales's personal assistant..... Pages 1, 3

## Ashdown offer

Paddy Ashdown made electoral reform the price for working together with Labour to secure a decade of reforming and modernising government..... Page 2

## Girl bride can stay

The Foreign Office said it was virtually powerless to bring home a 13-year-old British girl who has undergone a marriage ceremony with a Turkish waiter she met on holiday..... Page 3

## Head remembered

The daughter of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster stabbed to death, led a congregation of 2,000 at Westminster Cathedral praying "for the courage to stand up for what is true"..... Page 4

## Knives given up

A jungle spear 5ft long, samurai swords, and a blood-stained kitchen knife were among more than 37,500 weapons handed in during an amnesty on knives, police said..... Page 4

## Lottery grants

Budding sports stars are to receive National Lottery grants worth thousands of pounds to fund their training. Would-be artists and performers will also benefit..... Page 5

## Navy compensation

A Royal Navy fitter who says he suffered brain damage from exposure to a strong solvent was awarded £280,000..... Page 6

## Lucy gets away with murder

■ Lucy, an English Bull Terrier which killed a cat, walked free when a magistrate ruled that she was only doing what dogs do and awarded costs against the police. Michael Collins, her owner, said that the case had been a waste of taxpayers' money and added: "If Lucy had been found guilty, it would have been a death sentence for all dogs"..... Page 1

## Under the hammer

Zany contraptions and Heath Robinson-style inventions that their creators hoped would improve the world are to be auctioned today..... Page 6

## German crisis

German employers and union representatives hold talks today with Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to press him to stem unemployment and halt the country's economic decline..... Page 9

## Yeltsin under fire

President Yeltsin's bungling of the Chechen insurrection has deepened most Russians' alienation. The two parties sponsored by the Kremlin won only 11 per cent of the popular vote..... Page 10

## Tax debate

Against the odds, this year's plodding race for the Republican presidential nomination has finally generated a debate of real substance — the abandoning of tax progressiveness..... Page 10

## Jupiter mystery

The fiery descent by Galileo's probe into the atmosphere of Jupiter has left astronomers with a puzzle over just how planets formed..... Page 11

## Arafat's vote

The results of the first Palestinian election have confirmed that the poll could be likened to an internal ballot for Yasser Arafat's Fatah grouping..... Page 11



Three great grandchildren of Lord Home of the Hirsel, Michael Douglas, Iona Douglas-Horne and Mary Douglas-Horne, at the memorial service for the former Prime Minister in Westminster Abbey yesterday. Page 16

## BUSINESS

Fokker: The Dutch plane-maker, the France centre, risks suspension if his federation accepts match video evidence of foul play against England..... Page 44

Tennis: Brenda Schultz-McCarthy delivered the fastest service recorded by a woman (122mph) but was beaten by Martina Hingis, 15, in the fourth round of the Australian Open..... Page 40

Options: Archie Norman, chief executive at Asda, has made more than £3 million by exercising his share options in the last six months..... Page 23

Fortis: The £3.8 billion bid by Granada closes at lunchtime today..... Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 5.8 points to 3754.2. Sterling rose from \$2.8 to \$2.9 after a rise from \$1.5105 to \$1.5147 and DM2.2351 to DM2.2354..... Page 26

## SPORT

Rugby union: Richard Dourthe, the France centre, risks suspension if his federation accepts match video evidence of foul play against England..... Page 44

Tennis: Brenda Schultz-McCarthy delivered the fastest service recorded by a woman (122mph) but was beaten by Martina Hingis, 15, in the fourth round of the Australian Open..... Page 40

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Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 5.8 points to 3754.2. Sterling rose from \$2.8 to \$2.9 after a rise from \$1.5105 to \$1.5147 and DM2.2351 to DM2.2354..... Page 26

## ARTS

Theatrical revival: Last year he was at death's door. Now life is full of revivals for the veteran playwright Willis Hall, the man who wrote *The Long and the Short and the Tall*..... Page 37

Lighter touch: The Royal Ballet's production of *The Sleeping Beauty* may have cost half a million but the lighting is appalling..... Page 37

Shocking stuff: The Czech artist Jana Sterbak wires up an enigmatic sofa at the Serpentine Gallery, while at the Liverpool Tate, Susan Hiller assembles a compelling homage to heroinism..... Page 38

Slow start: Hugh Masekela, godfather of South African pop, left it dangerously late to reveal the true measure of his talent in his Festival Hall gig..... Page 39

## TODAY

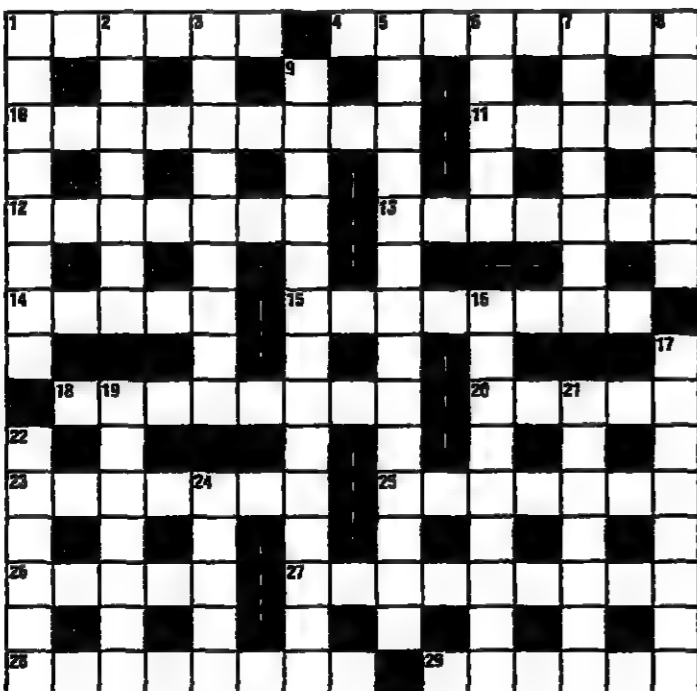
## IN THE TIMES

■ JUMBO EFFECTS Interface goes to the movies to see the special effects animals upstaging the actors

■ ARTS Sir Francis Drake sails back into controversy at Greenwich 400 years after his death



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,071



- ACROSS**
- 1 Select unknown, in form 1st.
  - 4 Well-known climber and 1 scale Mt. Tumbledown (5).
  - 10 Instrument for off-park calls (9).
  - 11 Joyful air of a former king of Romania (5).
  - 12 Barbary Coast character with rough appearance, say (7).
  - 13 Such a welcome behind inn, would be a novelty! (7).
  - 14 Runs over act, a musical piece (5).
  - 15 Solution for keeping the Cows-wild clean (5-3).
  - 18 Secondary class (8).
  - 20 Pipe up in this section of the flight (5).
  - 23 Go too high up with attempt (7).
- DOWN**
- 1 Risk going over lines in court (8).
  - 2 Here's hopin' for a painkiller (7).
  - 3 Lots of people performing melody about popular girl (9).
  - 5 Look! Tenpence is fiddled to make money corruptly (4,4,6).
  - 6 Tick — tea or coffee? (5).
  - 7 Source of pitch can initially interest composer (7).
  - 8 Odds on surgical dressing as treatment for fracture (6).
  - 9 Agreement, in writing (14).
  - 16 Crumbs and things under piano (4).
  - 17 Twice tolerate a minor burn (8).
  - 19 Futile advice to the prodigal (7).
  - 21 Pinch a bit (7).
  - 22 Unhealthy tick on wild bird (6).
  - 24 Lyric poet feels strong emotion (5).

**Solution to Puzzle No 20,070**

BUTTERSCOTCH  
R A A W U L C W  
A S S I S T A N T O M E G A  
N T I T U R U R L  
T H E S E W I N D O W S  
U N  
B O U N D S T E N A C I  
E P R B C  
A I G O R O U S M A S S I E  
E E B S I  
M A I N T H I L D V E R S E  
C O T O I S M C O  
T I E R C A T H E D R A L  
E V G A U N E  
C O N N I N G T O W E R

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Great Britain	701
North-Surrey, Sussex	702
Don't forget 3 GW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Dorset	705
Salisbury, Dorset	706
Salisbury & Dorset	707
North, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & 5th Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire & W. Wales	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humbers	713
Derby & Peak	714
Cheshire & Ch. Valley	715
N.W. England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N.E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
N.W. Scotland	721
Edin & Fife, Perth & Borders	722
S. Central Scotland	723
E. Central Scotland	724
Edinburgh & S. Highlands	725
N.W. Scotland	726
Gallopers, Orkney & Shetland	727
N. Ireland	728

Weathermail is charged at 15p per minute (24p a minute and 40p per minute to tel. other lines)

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic updates 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 1234 or 0330 401 1234

Location	Time	Direction	Notes
London	12.00	North	Minor delays
London	12.00	South	Minor delays
London	12.00	East	Minor delays
London	12.00	West	Minor delays

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Guernsey 9C (48F); lowest day temp: Ballyvaughan 1C (34F); highest rainfall: St. Ives, 1.5" (38mm); highest sunshine: St. Ives, 3.7h

## FORECAST

General: rain, preceded by sleet and snow, will spread north across much of England and Wales during the day, reaching North Wales and central areas of England after dark. The North West will stay largely dry, but there may be some sleet and snow in the East.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy day. The brightest and driest weather will be in the West and sleet and snow will affect areas further east. Snow showers are likely over higher ground and in the far North.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands, N Wales: outbreaks of rain preceded by sleet and snow. Wind east, moderate, fresh at times. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

Central S England, Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: outbreaks of rain, preceded by sleet or snow. Wind east, moderate. Cold.

In wind. Max 5C to 7C (41F to 45F).

E England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: cloudy with sleet or snow at times. Wind east, mainly moderate. Cold. Max 5C (37F).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: mostly dry, some bright spells. Wind southeast or east, mainly moderate. Max 5C to 5C (37F to 41F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: snow showers with some brighter spells. Wind southeast, strong, near gale at times. Cold in wind. Max 3C (37F).

Outlook: scattered snow showers likely in the East and South, cloudy with some brighter spells in the West.

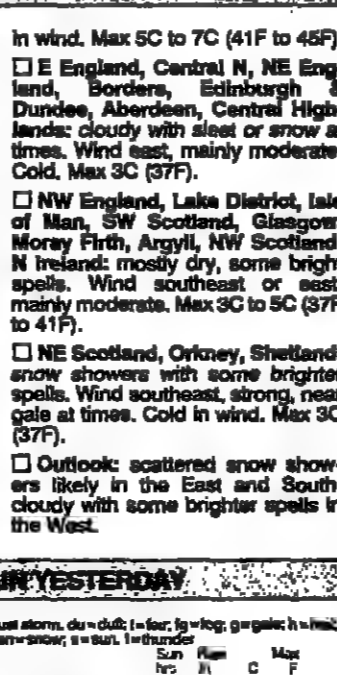
## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10	10	10
London	10	10	10
London	10	10	10

## ABROAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14

## CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON: LOW X WILL DRIFT SOUTHWEST AND FILL; LOW Y WILL EDGE EAST AND LOW Z WILL PUSH NORTHWEST THEN WEST, MAINTAINING PRESSURE



## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14

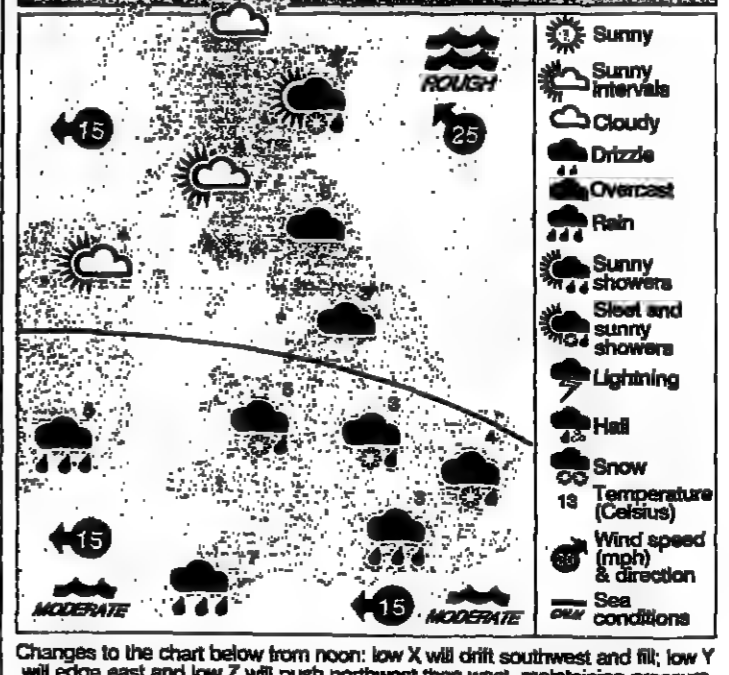
## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14

## CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON: LOW X WILL DRIFT SOUTHWEST AND FILL; LOW Y WILL EDGE EAST AND LOW Z WILL PUSH NORTHWEST THEN WEST, MAINTAINING PRESSURE



## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14
Accra	14	14	14



# LAW 31-33

When barristers have bulletproof protection



# ARTS 37-39

A new lease of life for Willis Hall — and his finest play



# SPORT 40-44

Giles calls shots in Britain's Olympic hockey campaign

TELEVISION AND RADIO  
Pages 42, 43

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 23 1996

## Daimler cuts off Fokker's cash lifeline

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL  
CORRESPONDENT



DIRECTORS of Fokker, the Dutch aircraft maker, were meeting last night to decide whether to seek court protection from creditors after its parent, Daimler-Benz, cut off its cash lifeline.

The German industrial group said it would "cease the financial support with immediate effect" and was making DM2.3 billion of related provisions (€1.03 billion) after failing to agree a rescue with the Dutch Government.

Announcing a strategic shift to focus on its profitable transport businesses where prospects are brightest, Daimler forecast losses for 1995 of DM6 billion (€2.68 billion), including provisions of a fur-

ther DM1.5 billion (€671 million) to restructure its electronics subsidiary AEG Daimler-Benz Industrie.

Jürgen Schrempf, Daimler's chairman, said: "Profitability must take precedence over revenues. With over 80 per cent of our businesses running satisfactorily, we owe it to shareholders not to allow the other 20 per cent to impede overall performance."

The decision marks a retreat by Daimler from its ambitions to lead the European aerospace industry. Manfred Bischoff, chairman of Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa), said: "Future activities in civil aircraft manufacturing will centre on the further development and expansion of the European Airbus." Airbus is a consortium in which Daimler works with British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France and Casa of Spain.

The future of Dornier, Dasa's German turboprop arm, is now in doubt, together with that of MTU, Daimler's jet engine builder. BMW Rolls-Royce, a 50-50 joint venture, wants to buy it, but talks are complicated because of collaboration between MTU and Pratt & Whitney, one of Rolls's chief rivals.

Herr Schrempf said that Daimler will return to profit in 1996. But Fokker's future looks bleak. It has been kept aloft

by Daimler since last August, when it emerged that first-half losses of 651 million guilders (€260 million) had left the company technically insolvent. The company has been brought down by the strengthening of the guilder against the US dollar, in which aircraft are priced, and by its high cost base.

Last year, Fokker delivered around 40 of its 80 to 100-seat F100 and F70 jets, twice as many as its chief rival, the British Aerospace Avro RJ "whisper jet". But BAE, which has restructured its regional aircraft business and formed a joint regional aircraft marketing company with Aerospaciale and Alenia of Italy, was able to snap up several key orders.

Despite shedding 3,900 workers in the past three years, Fokker still has a workforce of 7,900, mainly on a site at Amsterdam airport. The Dutch Government will remain under intense pressure to orchestrate a rescue of parts of the business, but has apparently concluded that the price of saving the civil aircraft activity is too high.

Closure would be a blow for Short Brothers in Belfast, which builds wings and other parts for the Fokker jets, and for Rolls-Royce, which supplies the Tay engines. Short's parent, Bombardier of Canada, has been mentioned as a possible rescuer of Fokker but has denied interest.

It will also hit operators, who will see residual values fall, although Daimler is to "explore all possibilities for ensuring that operators continue to receive technical support for Fokker aircraft".

Pennington, page 25  
Cash prop, page 27



Carol Galley, MAM vice-chairman, flanked by deputy chairman Stephen Zimmerman and Hugh Stevenson, chairman, yesterday

## Forte's fate settled by lunchtime

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE future of Forte will be decided by lunchtime today as the acrimonious two-month takeover battle with Granada draws to its conclusion. The result is expected later this afternoon.

Mercury Asset Management (MAM), whose 15 per cent stake is regarded as pivotal to the outcome of the bid, yesterday held meetings with Whitbread, the brewing company. Whitbread's £1 billion deal to buy Forte's roadside businesses is conditional on Forte surviving the £3.8 billion takeover. Other major shareholders whose support will determine the outcome

include Gartmore and Prudential, who both own 3 per cent, and Barings, Legal and General and ESN, who all own 2.5 per cent of Forte.

Granada said it was "quietly confident" of the bid succeeding. The company holds 10 per cent of Forte's shares, while most observers believe that it has secured the support of MAM.

Forte confirmed that Sir Rocco Forte, the company's chief executive, had increased his personal shareholding to around 1.9 per cent after buying shares worth £14.7 million at 37p on Friday. Forte can rely on support from

its directors, who control around 7 per cent of the company in total and a majority of private shareholders who own 15 per cent.

The votes will be counted as soon as the offer period closes at 1pm today at Barclays Registrars, in Throgmorton Street in the City. The result should be known within a few hours. If Granada falls short of the required 50 per cent acceptances, the offer immediately lapses and the company is unable to make a renewed bid for at least a year.

If the bid is successful, the offer becomes unconditional and shareholders who have

not consented to the bid will be given the opportunity to dispose of their shares at the cash price. There is little point in retaining the shares as Forte will lose its listing and is unlikely to pay a dividend. Once Granada gets more than 40 per cent of Forte's shares it will make a compulsory purchase of the remaining shares.

Forte also confirmed the details of the sale of 67 of the White Hart Hotel chain's 72 properties to Regal Hotels for £122 million.

Regal deal, page 24  
Tempus, page 26  
City Diary, page 27

## Economic growth at lowest for three years

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE British economy expanded by 0.4 per cent in the final quarter of last year, giving the lowest annual rate of growth since early 1993 and vindicating the Chancellor's two recent base rate cuts, according to the City.

Gross domestic product in the final quarter was only 1.8 per cent higher than the same period in 1994, compared with a year-on-year rate of 2.1 per cent in the third quarter. Non-oil GDP also grew by 0.4 per cent and by 1.7 per cent year-on-year. The Central Statistical Office's provisional figures showed stagnating manufacturing, construction still falling and only services ensuring any growth at all.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said political uncertainties were keeping confidence levels low in construction and the amount of work in the sector will be little changed over this year.

The City said the economy is clearly growing below its long-term trend rate and the two quarter-point interest rate cuts in December and last week were justified. Many economists argued the huge build-up of stocks in 1995 is yet to be unwound and growth will weaken further.

David Walton, economist with Goldman Sachs, said this will take until mid-year and base rates will be cut by another 1/2 point to 5.75 per cent in that period. Even with above-trend second-half growth, he still believes the economy will grow just 1.7 per cent in 1996.

Pennington, page 25

## Lord Sheppard heads East Coast bid team

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL privatisation received the backing of one of Britain's most influential businessmen yesterday when Lord Sheppard of Didgmore announced that he is to head the management team bidding for the prestigious InterCity East Coast franchise.

The 63-year-old chairman of Grand Metropolitan, who retires from the Burger King to Smirnoff vodka giant at the end of February, will lead a team of six British Rail managers in the buyout company.

The appointment restores the family tradition of a Sheppard working in the railway industry that ran unbroken for most of the century until two years ago when his brother, an engine driver, retired. His father, John, was also a driver with Great Eastern and LNER before and after nationalisation in 1948.

Lord Sheppard, who received £1.3 million in salary and share options last year, will work two days a week as



In family tradition, Lord Sheppard climbs aboard yesterday

non-executive chairman of the buyout team during the bid, before easing back to between two and five days a month.

His appointment will bring fresh credibility to a privatisation that has to date failed to excite a sceptical City. His only previous involvement with the railways was as a part-time member of the BR board between 1985 and 1990. He first got to know Brian Burdall, the director of East

Coast, who will become chief executive if the bid is successful, when he was on the British Railways Board and Mr Burdall was head of BR's parcels operations.

The franchise for East Coast, which operates high-speed services on the recently electrified London Kings Cross to Edinburgh route, is expected to be awarded in April. Four companies have been short-listed.

## British Gas in power plant deal

BRITISH GAS has teamed up with Scottish Hydro Electric to build a £315 million gas-fired power station which will start generating in 1998 (Christine Buckley writes).

Siemens, the German industrial group, will start work on the 755-megawatt plant at Avonmouth, near Bristol, later this year. The majority of the fuel will be supplied by British Gas. Scottish Hydro will buy from British Gas at "competitive rates which reflect the risks and uncertainties in the evolving gas and electricity markets" for 10 years. The electricity company is also committed to taking all the electricity produced by the plant for the same length of time.

A spokesman for British Gas said: "This will go a little way to reducing our gas surplus under the take-or-pay contracts, but only a short way." The plant will create more than 500 jobs.

Pilot study delay, page 24

## Norman pockets the £3m difference at Asda

By SARAH BAGNALL

ARCHIE NORMAN, chief executive of Asda, has made more than £3 million by exercising share options in the past six months.

Mr Norman, who received a total pay package worth £567,000 last year, made a £1.8 million instant pre-tax profit on Friday by exercising 2.4 million of the share options granted to him since joining the supermarket group in 1991.

The transaction follows a similar move in July when Mr Norman made a £1.6 million profit by exercising more than 2 million share options. The profits incur tax at 40 per cent. In the same month the retailer granted share options to some 56,000 employees — about half the workforce.

The company yesterday granted a further 791,895 share options to Mr Norman, 41, lifting the total held to 4.5 million, of which 200,820 are currently exercisable. The bulk of the remaining options — 2 million — relate to the

group's long-term incentive plan and are not exercisable until the end of this year and only then depending on whether the group has met certain financial targets. If the targets are met — and Asda is on course to do so — the share options can be exercised at a price of 0.1p. Yesterday's closing share price was 108p, down 3p on the day.

Under the terms of the

options, last Friday Mr Norman acquired the 2,452,070 shares at 30p each and then sold them at 110p, resulting in a profit of 74p a share.

The transaction rekindled speculation that Mr Norman, who along with the rest of the board moved to a one-year contract last year, may be preparing to move on. Another factor may be the £2 million added that Mr Norman could make by exercising the share options held under the long-term incentive plan.

The news came as Asda announced the appointment of Bob Emmott as development director on the management board. He joined from J Sainsbury, the rival supermarket group, where he was managing director of specialist businesses. Mr Emmott, 52, will play a crucial role in the group's attempt to lift the penetration of its own-label products. The appointment follows last week's promotion of four executives to the management board.



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Heavy users call for electricity pool to be referred to the MMC

# Shake-up sought on power prices

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

PRESSURE is growing for a shake-up of electricity pool pricing from industrial users. Yesterday the Energy Intensive Users Group called for a referral of the pool — which sets the price of electricity throughout the day — to the Monopolies and Mergers Committee.

In evidence to the MMC's inquiry into the planned mergers of National Power and Southern Electric and PowerGen and Midlands, the

group complained about the functioning of the pool. Ian Blakey, chairman of the industrial users group, said: "The real competition problems in the electricity market are the result of the pool structure, which is effectively a monopoly."

The group's call comes amid more widespread pressure from large electricity users as they approach a huge rise in a charge made to allow them to buy power at competitive prices. The industrial groups, which are seeking meetings

with the electricity regulator to question the pricing, raise further concerns about the costs of competition for the domestic market — a matter that the regulator is expected to rule on imminently.

The charge made to suppliers to allow 100kW customers into the competitive market will this year leap 89 per cent to £565 per site. Next year it is expected to jump another £100. Large users complain that the level will be ridiculously high and that it is eroding the cost benefits of

competition. Ironically, the electricity pool — which fixes pricing mechanisms — blames a proportion of the jump in the charge on the success of competition. Denis Worth, director of administration, said: "There are no economies of scale. Each time someone requires a meter there is a charge. The price rise is because there has been more interest than anticipated and because the costs are greater than expected."

Roy Chadwick, economic adviser to the Major Energy Users Council, said: "This is at an unacceptably high level because of the way the electricity supply industry is organised by itself." Mr Chadwick blames some of the charge on the fact that the supply industry has invented its own pricing structure.

Bob Speares, technical adviser on electricity to the Utility Buyers Forum, said: "The costs are increasing and reducing the benefits from competition. And because of the errors in introducing competition in 1994 we are still

paying for it." Geoffrey Woods, of the energy purchasing association for local authorities in the South East, said that the increase in charge would mean an extra cost of about £250,000 for the 1,000 sites the authorities have in the South East.

He said: "I've never heard anything so daft as an increase in charge because more people are using a facility." The data collection for the 100kW market is conducted by UKDCS, an agency wholly owned by the Regs.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Bank savers 'lose out on interest'

SAVERS who put their money into banks rather than building societies have lost interest worth £24 billion over the past decade, according to a new report based on Bank of England figures. This represents an average of about £800 for every building society saver. The findings by Bradford & Bingley were based on data compiled by the Bank of England and the Central Statistical Office.

In the latest round of speculation on which society will be the next to renounce mutual status in favour of stock market status, Bradford & Bingley has maintained that it wants to remain a mutual. John Wrigglesworth, of the Bradford & Bingley, said: "I cannot think of a better demonstration of mutual status than superior rates of interest on savings." Lloyds Bank, which last year took over the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, said: "We believe that our savings rates are broadly competitive with the major players, which include building societies."

### Bid rethink at US bank

FIRST INTERSTATE has been forced to reconsider a takeover bid by Wells Fargo, which is now worth \$11 billion, raising doubts about an agreed merger with First Bank System, of Minneapolis. A rise in shares in Wells Fargo has lifted the value of its bid to almost \$1.5 billion more than the deal with First Bank. A takeover by Wells would form the second largest bank in California and one of the top ten in the US. First Bank's offer suffered a further setback when the Securities & Exchange Commission ruled out important accounting mechanisms and a share buy-back programme that made its bid attractive to its own shareholders.

### Life's ups and downs

SUN LIFE OF CANADA and London and Manchester, the latest life companies to report year-end results, enjoyed mixed fortunes. While Sun Life of Canada reported a 28 per cent jump in total new premiums to £172.2 million, L&M reported a 28.6 per cent fall to £23.8 million. The former said total new premiums and investments were up 41 per cent to £285 million, compared with L&M's 11 per cent fall in managed funds on the corporate pensions side to £54.6 million. L&M said retention levels of 1995 renewal business indicated the strategy of merging its home service and direct sales divisions and new business centre openings was paying off.

### De La Rue sells plant

DE LA RUE, the banknote and security printer, is selling its plant in Hong Kong to the Hong Kong Government for HK\$255 million (£21.9 million). The plant was established in 1984 and prints Hong Kong dollar currency notes for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Standard Chartered Bank and the Bank of China. It also produces notes in other currencies for export. The operation, boosted by one-off factors, made pre-tax profits of £9.4 million in the year to March 31, 1995, and had net assets of £6.7 million at the time. De La Rue shares fell 14p to 715p.

### Beirut exchange reopens

THE Beirut Stock Exchange resumed trading yesterday after a break of nearly 13 years caused by Lebanon's civil war. Elissar Tamim, deputy trading floor chief, rang the hand-held bell from the pre-war days of open outcry trading to announce the start of operations on the small, computerised trading floor set up by the Paris bourse. But the restart with three listed shares — two cement companies and an industrial piping manufacturer — was quiet compared with trading before the 1983 closure when 42 shares were listed and Beirut was the busiest exchange in the Middle East.

### London Scottish up 28%

LONDON SCOTTISH BANK lifted pre-tax profits 28 per cent to £8 million in the year to October 31, helped by an increased demand for consumer credit from the low paid and unemployed. Its consumer credit profits were 28 per cent higher at £4.9 million after the number of loan accounts increased from 106,389 to 119,120. Earnings per share were 9.7p (7.6p) and the dividend for the year is 5p (4.1p), with the final payment of 3.5p due on March 14. The bank has increased its bad debt provision by 18.5 per cent to £1.87 million to cover 12.1 per cent (11.5 per cent) of lending.

## Gas leaders to seek a delay for pilot study

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAS industry leaders will meet Clare Spottiswoode, the Director-General of Gas Supply, today to discuss a delay in the start of a pilot study on competition to supply 300,000 families in the South West.

A report from Chris Rees, the consultant hired by Ofgas to review preparations for the pilot scheme, is expected to give warning that the target date of April 1 will be extremely

difficult to achieve. Delays by the Department of Trade and Industry in drawing up licences for rival suppliers and concerns that the computer system for customer bills remains unproven, have led British Gas to call for the opening up of the market to be deferred until June.

Ms Spottiswoode is expected to urge officials from the DTI, and directors of Transco and its shippers to continue to work towards the target date. Though she now accepts that a delay may be inevitable, she is keen to defer the decision until the last moment.

Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, and his advisers are still hesitating over whether to announce a levy on gas consumers to fund liabilities estimated at £1.5 billion for take-or-pay gas purchase contracts. Big gas users have threatened legal action if the Government introduces a levy, while consumer groups claim it could add £45 to household bills and cause a political storm.

Mounting problems in opening the pilot area to competition are becoming an embarrassment to the Government. John Battle, Shadow Minister for Energy, said ministers had "bungled the introduction of competition" by failing to think through the implications.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buyers	Sellers
Australia \$	2.15	1.98
Austria Sch	14.75	15.25
Belgium Fr	49.00	49.50
Canada \$	2.189	2.009
Cyprus Cyp£	0.747	0.692
Denmark Kr	8.28	8.48
Finland Mk	7.38	8.71
France Fr	6.55	7.40
Germany DM	5.35	5.18
Greece Dr	368.00	361.00
Hong Kong \$	12.31	11.51
India Ru	7.01	0.93
Israel Sh	8.1100	4.4800
Italy Lit	2690.00	2281.00
Japan Yen	173.80	157.80
Malta £	0.587	0.552
Netherlands Gld	2.951	2.431
New Zealand \$	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	10.28	9.58
Portugal Esc	242.50	224.00
Spain Ptas	165.50	155.50
Sweden Kr	10.81	10.01
Switzerland Fr	1.84	1.75
Turkey Lira	167	87989.0
USA \$	1.607	1.477

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from close of business on 22nd January 1996 the following Business Cheque and Deposit rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

Rate per Annum  
GROSS %  
C.A.R. %

### Business Interest Cheque Account

#### Instant Access Cheque Account

£250,000+	3.75	3.80
£100,000-249,999	3.50	3.55
£50,000-99,999	3.00	3.03
£10,000-49,999	2.75	2.78
£2,000-9,999	2.00	2.02
£1-1,999	1.50	1.51

#### Schools Banking Account

4.50 4.58

#### Capital Reserve Account\*\*

£250,000+	5.15	5.25
£100,000-249,999	5.00	5.09
£50,000-99,999	4.75	4.84
£10,000-49,999	4.25	4.32
£2,000-9,999	3.00	3.03
£1-1,999	1.50	1.51

#### Practice Call Account\*

£100,000+	5.25	5.35
£50,000-99,999	4.50	4.58
£10,000-49,999	4.25	4.32
£2,000-9,999	2.75	2.78
£1-1,999	1.50	1.51

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Ronald Noel-Paton, left, and John Menzies, chairman, blame less profitable contracts

## Menzies warning as profits nosedive

BY SARAH BAGNALL

JOHN MENZIES, the retailer and newspaper distributor, yesterday blamed less profitable contracts with publishers for a near-50 per cent drop in interim profits and gave warning that the full-year performance will fail to match expectations.

The shares fell 38p to 580p as City analysts cut their full-year forecasts from about £41 million to £35 million.

The company, which is in the process of restructuring, revealed a drop in pre-tax profits from £7.3 million to £3.8 million in the six months to October 28. The reduction arose in spite of a 9 per cent rise in turnover to £628.4 million.

Ronald Noel-Paton, managing director, said: "We can't deny gravity. The reality is that for perfectly understandable commercial reasons we are looking at a profit hit."

The decline was principally the result of a fall in profits from £13.6 million to £10.8 million from the group's distribution business. Mr Noel-Paton said: "The reduction in profits is due to the loss of margin following publisher contract renewals and repositioning costs." The group is making savings cuts to the number of distribution centres, resulting in redundancy costs. Other operations, including retail, failed to offset reduced profits from the distribution business.

Retail losses fell from £5.8 million to £5.6 million, reflecting difficult market conditions. Group profits were hit by an increased interest bill of £1.4 million, up from £500,000, because of increased investment. The interim dividend, due April 1, was lifted from 4.6p to 4.8p. Earnings per share fell from 7.6p to 3p.

## Danka to seek ADR placing

Danka Business, the office equipment supplier, is seeking to raise between £91 million and £105.5 million through an ADR placing in America. The company wants to reduce borrowings resulting from the purchase of Infotec Europe BV for £104 million. Most of the placing will go to US investors. Danka shares fell 25p to 575p.

## European Leisure dips

Shares in European Leisure slid to 170p before partly recovering to 176p, down 9p, after the snooker and nightclub group gave warning that half-year earnings will be below market expectations. However, the company emphasised that operating profits in the six months to December 31 will be in excess of last year.

## LBS deal

LBS, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Lamineth Building Society, has bought the £70 million mortgage portfolio of 3,300 home loans from National Mutual Life (NML). The mortgages are linked in NML policies and borrowers will remain customers of the society.

## OIS approach

OIS International Inspection, the technical services inspection group, said it had received an approach which could lead to a cash offer for the company higher than the £7.4 million bid from Abbot Group, the oil and gas services company.

## Trusts pick up

Investment trusts enjoyed a surge of interest in the fourth quarter of last year, increasing 11 per cent on the previous three months to £46 million.

## Regal prepares rights issue over hotels deal

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in Regal Hotels were suspended at 44p yesterday as the company prepared a rights issue to pay for its £122 million purchase of White Hart Hotels from Forte.

If the deal is completed, Regal, which owns a string of mid-market hotels in the Midlands and the North, will quadruple in size, taking its hotel holdings from 22 to 99. The sale is conditional on the outcome of the Forte bid battle, although Granada has not ruled out sanctioning the sale if the takeover succeeds.

Regal will pay Forte £90 million in cash and £32 million in 10 per cent redeemable

convertible preference shares. Regal hopes to fund the purchase through a mixture of borrowings and a rights issue. The purchase price is almost three times the company's market cap of £45 million.

Charles Vere Nicol, chief executive of Regal, said: "The hotels complement our existing chain and several of our senior staff have had direct experience of the White Hart business." Regal was rescued from bankruptcy in 1993 by Mr Vere Nicol and Christopher Stainforth, joint head of corporate finance at Guinness Mahon, the merchant banker. The company has fuelled its

expansion through rights issues, and its share price, which once stood at just 0.25p, has climbed steadily.

The latest deal was brokered by Charles Peel, of Peel Hunt, the broker, whose brother, Robert, is head of Mount Charlotte Thistle Hotels, and has been talked about as a possible replacement for Sir Rocco Forte as chief executive of Forte.

An earlier Forte deal with Oriel Leisure to sell off White Hart Hotels fell through after Apex, the venture capitalists financing the deal, demanded a price reduction.

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## Superheroes sign up for Bluebird

BATMAN and Spiderman are joining forces with Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. Walt Disney's family favourites (Sarah Bagnall writes). News that Bluebird Toys had signed up the two cartoon characters sent the toy maker's shares up 18p to 338p.

Bluebird has signed a deal with DC Comics, a subsidiary of Time Warner Entertainment, and Hasbro to license Batman, and a separate deal with Toy Biz, an affiliate of Marvel Entertainment, to license Spiderman.

Bluebird has been the subject of bid speculation in recent months. Last October it emerged that Hasbro had converted loan stock resulting in a 7 per cent holding in the company.



Chris Burgin, chief executive, backs Batman



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## Who will bell the pensions cat?

IF THE first rule of politics is never decide today what can be put off until tomorrow, the second rule is never admit that some problems may be beyond easy resolution. Both rules explain the remarkable lack of firm ideas from the politicians in the pensions debate.

Like the mice in Aesop's fable, everyone is quite certain of the solution, and what the future of pensions provision must be — away from the State, loaded onto the responsible individual, and hard luck to those who do not provide for themselves. But who has the courage to bell the cat?

A dry-as-dust report due today attempts to provide some of the detail. The independent Retirement Income Inquiry is expected to recommend a two-tier system, a minimum state pension to fund a distinctly frugal lifestyle topped up by a scheme paid into by employees and their employers.

This is, of course, just what we have today. The difference is that the second tier would be compulsory, with the contributions set at a minimum level.

Just as in allied debates over welfare spending generally and the future of the health service, any forward projections of the cost of pensions show clearly that the current system is unsustainable.

able. Britain is rather better off, in demographic terms, than its neighbours. But by 2030 there will be just 2.7 people working for every one enjoying a retirement of sorts. The annual bill for basic state pensions will rise from £26 billion to £42 billion.

Those politicians who have been persuaded above the parapet have been almost unanimous in accepting the need for compulsory provision — privatisation, by any other name. If anything, Labour has been more hawkish than the Conservatives, and least inclined to worry over built-up "grandfather rights" of those who are already paying into the welfare system.

The detail, therefore, is the balance between state and private provision. At the extreme, the state pension might be allowed to wither away under the pressure of inflation. This has some fairness in terms of grandfather rights, because the closer your retirement date, the lower the reduction of the state's share. Any changes must run in

parallel with a more flexible approach to retirement, as against the statutory gold carriage clock at 60 or 65.

The losers would be the long-term unemployed, required to subsist on that shrinking state pension and so immured in their accustomed state of poverty, or the growing army of desperate part-timers, ditto. For the rest, compulsory contributions would provide a boom for those firms providing pensions, at the expense of sales of other savings vehicles, as the "trickle down" of wealth from the one generation is invested in the next generation's old age.

### Daimler's hand off the joy-stick

HOW are the mighty fallen. Nernst came to Daimler-Benz in the shape of a misguided investment less than three years ago in Fokker. Like British Aerospace, Saab, Ford, and too many others, Daimler-Benz

### PENNINGTON



made the mistake of believing that building both cars and planes made sense. The aim was to be an all-purpose technology group, clambering out of strong roots in trucks and cars to dominate aerospace, defence, railways and electronics.

The timing could not have been worse. Daimler bought national champions that were ailing, and therefore cheap, because their industries were going global. Even defence, that old state-aided stalwart, was brought to its knees by the collapse of the Berlin Wall. But while Daimler's US rivals merge and restructure, the German

warplane maker must soldier on with inadequate volumes until Europe can agree common procurement policies.

On top of all that, the strength of the mark is crippling the Germans' ability to export, and nowhere more so than in aerospace.

Under Jürgen Schrempf, the man who led Daimler into its misguided Fokker adventure, the company is going back to those roots. More than 80 per cent of the business is going well. Escaping from the rest is the challenge.

By focusing civil aerospace on the company's role as a partner in Airbus Industrie, the European consortium, Daimler can enjoy economies of scale and efficiency. But high costs will remain a problem. Increasingly, sub-assemblies must be sourced from more cost-effective, dollar currency countries overseas.

With Fokker out of the running, Aero International Regional, owned by British Aerospace, Aerospaciale and Alenia, will become the world's

leading regional aircraft builder and the European contender, against Boeing, to develop a replacement regional jet with the Koreans and Chinese.

### Back on the gold standard

GOLD prices, it says in all the economics textbooks, rise in response to uncertainties on world financial markets, or to global political instability, or as a hedge against inflation — or in the last resort when the metal is seen as an alternative bolt-hole to tumbling equities markets.

So what are we to make of a gold price over \$400 an ounce and expected to stay there? Inflation is being nailed down everywhere, equities are sky-high and the internal troubles of the old Soviet Union aside, the developed world is at comparative peace.

But the metal has not been at these levels since it was propelled there by Soros and Goldsmith in

summer 1993. There is clearly enough uncertainty over equities to drive some nervous punters into gold's embrace. American funds are known to be buyers. But gold for once may just be that *rara avis*, a market driven by actual demand rather than by speculation.

Gold fabricators, those who make things out of the stuff rather than bet on it, now accept that the price is stable at its current level, and are willing to top up stocks rather than buying into the downturn as they would normally. Things occasionally are that simple.

### Leisurely pace

ANOTHER less welcome echo of 1993 came with a set of GDP figures showing the slowest growth since that year. Far from being John Major's enterprise centre of Europe, we are more like the leisure centre. While manufacturing stagnated, services kept growth going. Yes, there was some high street spending, and yes, business services did well. But the real boom came in restaurants, hotels, sports centres and the like. We are buying experiences, not things. The bailiffs can't take those away, can they?

## Orange heads for market with £3.3bn price tag

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ORANGE, the mobile phone company, is to be floated on the stock market in March, valuing the business at an estimated £3.3 billion.

The sale of new shares, amounting to a quarter of the enlarged equity, will repay an estimated £650 million owed to founder shareholders British Aerospace and Hutchison Whampoa, the land-to-port group owned by Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong billionaire.

BAE will retain 24 per cent of Orange, worth £790 million at the projected sale price, while Hutchison's remaining 51 per cent could be worth £1.68 billion. The purpose of the sale is

to put a value on the investments held by BAE and Hutchison, and to raise £500 million to finish the network.

Orange, which launched services less than two years ago, in April 1994, now has 400,000 subscribers, rising by 1,000 a day, said Hans Snook, managing director. But with its £1 billion UK network only half completed, it is not expected to be in profit until 1998, while shareholders may have to wait until 2000 for dividends, analysts said.

Shares will be offered to professional investors worldwide in a sale co-ordinated by Dresdner Bank-Kleinwort

Benson and Goldman Sachs International. It will be listed in London and the shares will be traded as American depositary receipts in the US.

The company to be floated, called Orange plc, will become the holding company of Hutchison Telecom UK, which also offers pager services and acts as a service provider for Cellnet and Vodafone networks. Orange plc will include service provider operations in France, where Hutchison has 113,000 subscribers, and Germany, where it has 108,000.

The main focus of the business will be in Britain, however, where Orange has more than 2,000 employees engaged in the battle to overhaul its main rivals: Cellnet, controlled by British Telecom; Vodafone, a quoted company; and Mercury One2One, owned by Cable and Wireless. Valuations are likely to be based upon comparisons with Vodafone, which is capitalised at £6.58 billion. With other businesses stripped out, Vodafone's cellular telephone business, with 2.3 million subscribers, is calculated by Kleinwort Benson to be worth £4.3 billion.

But the price put on Orange will be based heavily upon the likely number of subscribers in the year 2005, when Kleinwort predicts Orange will be serving four million customers. If Orange achieves only three million in ten years, its value could be about £1 billion less than Kleinwort's £3.3 billion "base case", analysts say. But those who believe it will win five million customers may reckon it worth £1 billion more.



Hans Snook needs £500 million for the UK network

Temps, page 26

### Profits fly back at USAir

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BRITISH AIRWAYS' 25 per cent investment in USAir looks at last as if it is coming right. The US airline surged into the black in 1995 after years of heavy losses.

USAir reported a \$119.3 million after-tax profit last year, compared with a loss in 1994 of \$684.9 million. Over the last five years, the company has lost \$3 billion, making its return to profitability even more remarkable. In the final quarter of last year, a loss of \$322 million in 1994 turned into a profit of \$60.3 million this time.

BA had to write down half of its original \$500 million investment in the company last year because of its persistent losses.

The return to profitability owed much to lower costs and better efficiency. There was a small rise in revenue from \$7.0 billion to \$7.5 billion. Last week, USAir appointed Stephen Wolf, who has a reputation for being tough with unions, as new chairman.

## Highland buys Macallan stake

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

HIGHLAND Distilleries, the makers of The Famous Grouse, yesterday took a large stake in Macallan-Glenlivet in a move to spread the company's whisky portfolio.

The distiller, which has a cross-holding with Remy Cointreau from whom it bought the interest, paid £46.6 million for 26 per cent of the equity in Macallan. Since 1994, Highland has been the UK distributor of Macallan.

Brian Ivory, chief executive, said: "We want the international potential of Macallan. The price is relatively full in terms of price-earnings, but we think it is reasonable in view of the prospects." He said the Macallan single malt would be a good complement to the blended Famous Grouse.

A number of analysts declared the price expensive. Guy Farmer, of Kleinwort Benson, said: "This is seen as quite disappointing. Many people had been hoping Highland's next move would be to bolster its stake in Remy. The price is very full and one that is hard to justify."

Highland has an indirect interest of 10.6 per cent in

Remy, while the French company holds 10 per cent of Highland. With its interim results last week, Remy pledged to reduce its debt and said it was looking to sell off peripheral interests.

Last year, Highland, which has launched a high-profile advertising campaign for the Grouse label, bought Black Bottle from Allied Domecq for £12.8 million, to increase the variety of its whisky. Yesterday's purchase will be made for cash and be financed by bank borrowings.

In the year to December 31, 1994 Macallan made pre-tax profits of £6.7 million. Unaudited profits before tax for the six months to June 30 were £2.9 million. Its assets then stood at £52.7 million.

Shares in both companies fell back on the deal. Highland lost 6p to 320p as the market responded to the high price and Macallan suffered because the stake was sold at a substantial discount.

The shares were bought for 152.5p by Highland after closing on Friday at 178p. They fell 18p to 160p yesterday.

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## Farnell expected to announce US acquisition

FARNELL ELECTRONICS, the fast-growing electronic components distributor, is poised to announce a substantial acquisition, probably in America (Philip Pangalos writes).

Shares in Farnell were suspended yesterday at 679p, at the company's request, capitalising the cash-rich group at about £926 million.

Industry experts think Farnell is likely to announce a "sizeable" acquisition.

Newark and Digi-key, two leading US catalogue distribution groups specialising in electronic components, are the firm favourites. Newark, understood to have annual revenues of about \$500 million, was last night seen as the most likely candidate. Such a deal would probably be worth in the region of \$800 million to \$900 million, requiring a significant equity issue by Farnell. The Wetherby

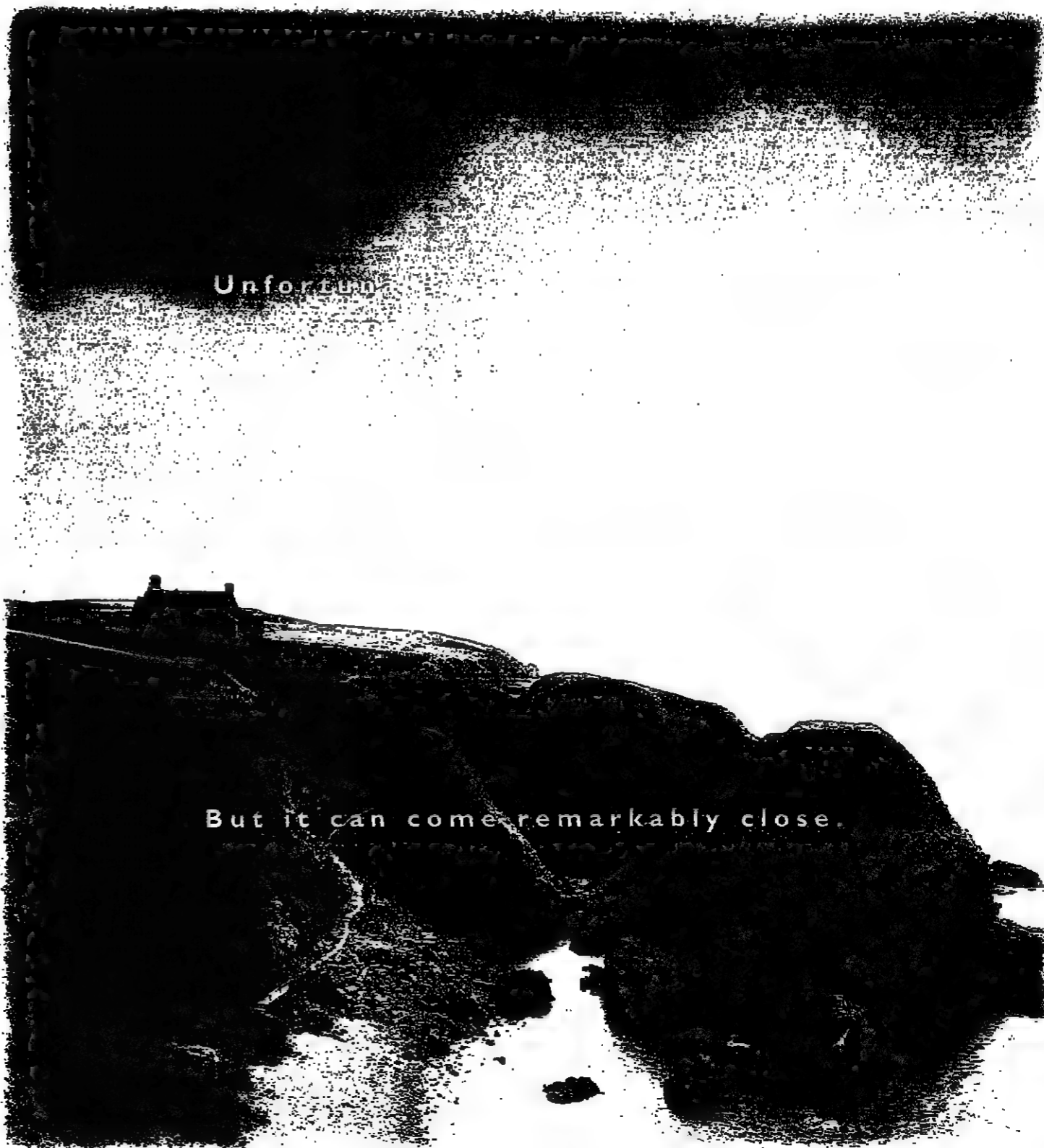
group had more than £70 million cash when it unveiled a surge in first-half pre-tax profits to £71.3 million in the six months to July 30, including an exceptional profit of £35.3 million from the £81 million sale of the manufacturing division in March.

Howard Poulson, chief executive, said at the time that the company planned further overseas expansion. Farnell already has operations in 14

countries, and nearly half the group's business is now conducted overseas.

It launched a catalogue business last summer in the US and Singapore. The group had designed a new catalogue containing 35,000 lines and in October opened a distribution warehouse in South Carolina, initially targeting the East Coast, although orders could be placed by phone or fax from anywhere in the US.

W O R L D B U S I N E S S C L A S S



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THE  
TIMESCITY  
DIARYArcher in the  
frame for win

LORD ARCHER is counting his winnings after a hectic week. He started playing the money markets and then came up trumps when he bought and sold a painting by Edward Aronson (who illustrated Henry Cecil Leon's books).

The flurry of investment activity was part of a competition for the April issue of *Esquire* magazine. Lord Archer said: "I don't think I'm winning — it's one of those gambles. I only lasted two minutes on the money markets. But I was a bit lucky because the Chancellor brought the interest rate down 4 of a per cent, and I made £541 by accident."

Financial consultant left Randall joined Lord Archer on the money markets. Reputed millionaire Eddie Ford, who owns a pawnbroking empire, set up a charity to raise money for cancer research.

Eddy Shah won in 1993 from games of golf and roulette. He finished £592 ahead.

## Close run thing

INSTITUTIONAL Forte shareholders thinking of keeping Granada guessing until the last moment on whether they are going to accept its takeover offer should ensure they have messengers who are fleet of foot. Acceptances of Granada's offer have to be lodged at Barclay's Registrars, 8 Angel Court, Throgmorton Street, Ipsen today. There are no excuses for being late.



"Holy smoke — it's a reverse takeover"



"Holy smoke — it's a reverse takeover"

## Savoy tribute

ANYONE wondering why the flags were flying at half-mast at The Savoy should know that it was in respect for Lord Home of the Hirsel, the former Prime Minister, in whose memory a service of thanksgiving was held in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

## Getting the pip

ORANGE has signed up an impressive list of banks to support its forthcoming flotation. However, it's said that Deutsche Morgan Grenfell will not be lending its weight to one of the largest new issues this year ... because of the presence of that other Anglo-German, Dresdner Bank Kleinwort Benson, as lead manager alongside Goldman Sachs.

## Halo, halo ...

FROM sinners to saints ... the former head of M16, Sir Colin McColl, is joining the board of The Scottish American Investment Company, aka "Saints", as a non-executive director.

## In style

LONDON'S Landmark Hotel, formerly the Regent, is offering from today a collection of "great escapes" which should appeal to National Lottery winners and the highly stressed. Top of the pile is the Ultimate Escape at £3,500 a night, which includes vintage Dom Perignon, Beluga caviar, and a private Bentley chauffeur.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Buoyant export market key  
to fulfilling growth targetPhilip Bassett  
and Ross  
Tieman assess  
the 'slippage'  
in order books

When Britain's business leaders announce today the findings of the latest temperature-taking industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, the Government and the City will be keen to see whether the real economy is still taking a breather, or sliding towards recession.

The confidence of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in agreeing with the Governor of the Bank of England a second quarter-point cut in interest rates last week suggests they think the economy needs only a further touch on the tiller.

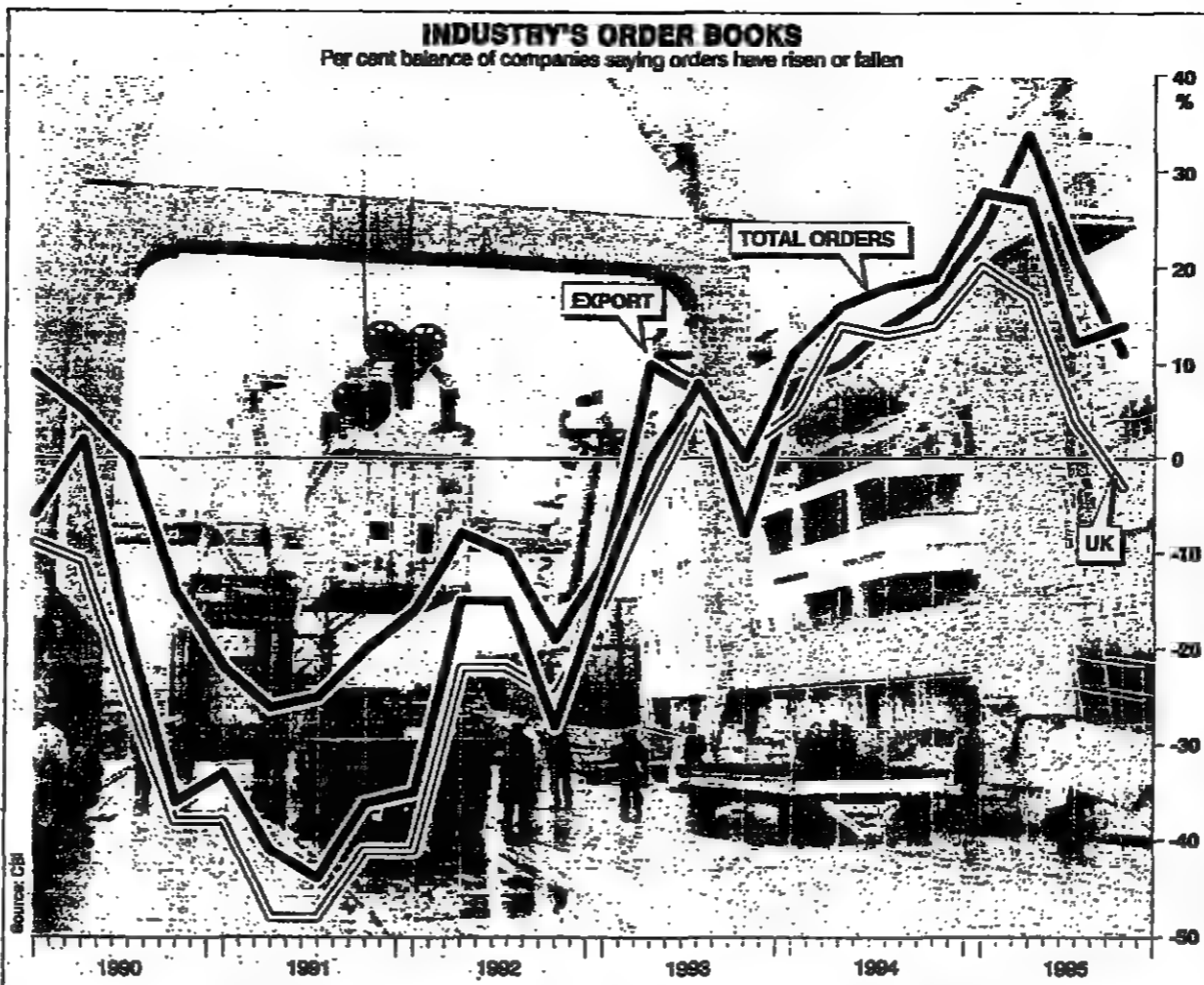
The last CBI survey, in October, contained enough to make business leaders start to feel nervous: in particular, the 3 per cent balance of companies surveyed reporting that domestic orders were falling — the first negative figure for UK order books since spring 1993, after the trough of the recession had bottomed out.

But last week's similar large-scale industrial survey from the British Chambers of Commerce was more sanguine. After months of increasingly anguished noises about the economy, Chambers' leaders were taking a more placid line. The particular significance of today's CBI figures will lie in the suggestion that the real driver of Britain's recovery — exports — may now be easing back, or worse, as overseas markets tighten.

Since the low point of the recession, industry and services have told two stories. For companies operating wholly or mainly in UK markets, the idea of a recovery is largely a joke. For them, the recession has barely ended, if at all. High street retailers, consumer goods sellers, the construction industry, anything resting on British buyers alone has had a hard time. At the same time, companies with any kind of worthwhile export business, or firms servicing exporting companies, such as pharmaceuticals or carmaking, have been doing a great deal better than those without.

The accompanying graphic, using figures drawn from the detail of the CBI's surveys, tells the two stories. Total orders show British manufacturing industry hauling itself slowly back from the bottom in mid-1991, moving into growth two years ago. The graph for domestic orders suggests a tougher time of it. The recession cut much deeper, the recovery was weaker, and the falling away of orders since then, now actually dropping, much more precipitate.

Exports, though, were never hit as hard in the first place, and once Britain's ERM ad-



venture was abandoned, growth was much sharper. But over the past six months export growth has dropped back, with the balance of companies — those reporting an increase in orders set against those registering a fall — that are recording rising exports falling away from 34 per cent last April to 21 per cent in the summer and 11 per cent by October.

"We are still very bullish," says Ian Campbell, Director-General of the Institute of Export, which expects Government figures later this year to show that total UK exports amount to about £150 billion for 1995 — up some 10 per cent or so on even the previous year, which ministers proclaimed as a record. He accepts the export boom has now "fallen off", but adds: "We don't see it falling back."

Even so, economic analysts see the slippage as worrying, partly because the prospects for exports seem to be worsening, if anything, as a number of key target markets see their own economies faltering.

Continental Europe now buys 57 per cent of United Kingdom exports, according to the Department of Trade and Industry. And there, the two biggest economies are faltering. France, where the Government's determination to pull the economy towards meeting the demands of the Maastricht convergence criteria, is cited as a less likely export goal now, as is Germany, where economic slowdown has been unexpected in its timing and its force.

The French authorities are forecasting a pick-up during

the second half of the year, but political uncertainty, the strong franc and inflexible labour markets continue to cast a shadow over economic prospects. It is a similar tale in Germany, where the pace of industrial restructuring in response to the strong mark is gathering pace. Job losses in manufacturing create alarm and sap consumer confidence.

UK exporters have been taking up ministers' exhortations to find markets beyond Europe. Evidence to be published at the end of the month by the carriage company DHL, is expected to show some significant rises in the proportion of exports going to

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non-EU markets. Exports to the Asia-Pacific region, for instance, are expected to be up from 30 to 35 per cent of the total.

Economic growth in Asia, from India to China, remains formidably strong. British companies have discovered new markets there, for the full range of British exports. Even British Steel has been reporting strong growth in sales to the region, despite the geographical proximity of the powerful Japanese and Korean steel industries.

Last year the CBI and the DTI made Latin America, and

particularly the new customs union of Argentina, Brazil and Chile, the focus of a drive to find new export markets. But emerging markets will be hard pressed to keep export growth from slackening as European demand slows. Nor can North America, one of Britain's biggest trading partners, be relied upon, in election year especially, to provide the necessary stimulus.

Increased difficulties in European markets mean that many forecasts are suggesting that, this year, domestic growth is central to any rebound in the UK economy from what business leaders have been hoping is genuinely a pause for breath. Earlier this month, for instance, Ernst & Young in its ITEM forecast, using the Treasury's economic model, suggested that if UK demand does not push up, then prospects for hitting the Chancellor's overall growth target of 3 per cent are slim, and growth may end up half that rate, or less.

But many industries are sceptical that their own growth will be as strong as that. In printing, for instance, after what, in the main, was a good year in 1995, general printers are still optimistic about this year — but that optimism is heavily tinged with caution. The British Printing Industries Federation has seen its state-of-trade figures slip back from an 80 per cent balance of a year ago to a quarter of that now — and only 3 per cent of companies expect improving trade over the next three months.

In chemicals, the industry where Britain maintains its

biggest balance of trade surplus, the UK industry may be ahead of the cycle of others. After a year in which UK chemical exports all but disappeared, the industry is projecting a small increase in exports of about 2 per cent — though this is well behind the projected export performance of counterparts in the principal competitor countries.

But that is enough to generate at least some optimism in the industry. Richard Freeman, ICI's chief economist, says that the slight acceleration of chemical growth across Europe as a whole "provides the rationale for stating that the slowdown over the last six months or so represents a pause — and not a slide into a new recession".

Aerospace, our number two export earner, is only at the start of its cyclical upturn after a four-year slump. Recovery at the back end of the year will feed through into British factories only slowly.

Concern over the fading pace of export growth may turn out to be overdone. Optimism about a domestic recovery may prove undeserved. One thing is sure. In the coming months, many British companies will be listening very closely to their customers in Britain and overseas markets before fixing their production plans.

JANET  
BUSHGeorge pays  
unfair price

It takes a long time to build up anti-inflation credibility and a dishearteningly short time to destroy it. Two years on, Eddie George is grimly counting the cost of signing up for the system of monthly meetings with published minutes, a halfway house he hoped would lead to full independence.

He no longer has the luxury of silence, which British central bankers have customarily enjoyed. His wordless jet-setting since last week's base rate cut has left a vacuum for speculation and been roundly criticised. He has been overruled by the Chancellor twice so far — probably three times counting last week — only serving to highlight that monetary policy remains in the hands of politicians, as ever. But it is worse to have one's advice turned down in public than in private.

The knife has been given an additional twist by the markets, which are now cheering each decision that Kenneth Clarke makes, whether or not the Governor agrees. Mr George has made one perceived misjudgment and has paid disproportionately.

There are two arguments in the Bank's defence. First, it has an absurdly narrow remit to base its advice solely on the likelihood of hitting the inflation target of 2.5 per cent or less in two years' time. Secondly, it has been less pessimistic about inflation than the majority of private economists. But none of this counts in Mr George's favour because the economics went against him. Making policy in public is a tough game.

Given the lags between rate moves and their effects, and given shortening odds on an early election, Mr George has very little chance to even up the score. Even if his cautious stance on rates turns out to have been right, the proof is not likely to come soon enough to bolster his position.

It seems unlikely that he can now claw his way back to something like equality with the current Chancellor. So the best chance for the Governor's rehabilitation may be with an incoming Labour Government, paranoid about the past's wilful

attacks on sterling and therefore desperate for the conferred credibility that the Bank of England can offer.

It is no doubt true that Gordon Brown would have to tread a little more carefully than the master salesman Kenneth Clarke. Mr Clarke has a usefully combative style and at least has a chance to prove he has sound instincts. Mr Brown has no such brownie points and belongs to the Labour Party to boot, surely still anathema to City die-hards.

But the case for Mr George under Labour is actually not that strong. If they concern themselves with such details, Labour's strategists would have been happy to see the reaction of the sterling futures market to last week's base rate cut. Sterling futures, which offer the best guide to market expectations of interest rates, showed that even at the end of 1997, rates are expected to be no higher than 6.7 per cent, less than half a point higher than now.

Given that betting folk expect Labour to be in power by then, there is no scent of the market panic that has invariably greeted incoming Labour governments. If Labour has no need to be defensive, this leaves Mr George vulnerable.

Mr Brown has two conditions before any further power could be conceded to the Bank. The first is that the group of officials making rate decisions be broadened and de-personalised. That may suit Mr George. The second is that the Bank must be seen to have built up a good track record of advice. Mr George may feel less comfortable with that.

It is perceived public misjudgments have on a day when Labour might code power over monetary policy, even assuming it turns out to have been right, the proof is not likely to come soon enough to bolster his position.

Mr George is clearly safe until mid-1998, when his contract is due for renewal. But Howard Davies, a more obviously palatable animal for Labour tastes, is waiting in the wings and is not a man used to being second in command.

## Ross Tieman on Daimler's unkindest cut

## Fokker left without cash prop

Jürgen Schrempf, the Daimler-Benz chief, succeeded yesterday where Biggles, every British schoolboy's favourite air ace, always failed. He downed Fokker, successor company to the plane-maker that put Baron von Richthofen in the air.

For the 7,900 workers at the Dutch regional aircraft-maker, Herr Schrempf's decision to sever the financial lifeline is a disaster. It will be a concern, too, for Rolls-Royce, which earns £100 million a year from the Tay engines it sells to power the 30 or 40 Fokker jets built every year.

For the hundreds of employees at Short Brothers in Belfast, who build the wings for Fokker's F-70 and F-100 jets, it could spell the dole queue. Fokker's jets are put together in the old-fashioned, labour-intensive way, each wing held together by 25,000 rivets.

The failure to substitute machines for high-cost labour, particularly in The Netherlands, has brought the company to its knees. Despite a proud history, Fokker has found itself too small and too poorly funded to thrive.

In 1993, Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) agreed to acquire a controlling 51 per cent stake in Fokker for 686 guilders (£274 million). The transaction was only partly completed: the Dutch state still holds a minority of the shares. The deal was part of strategic moves by



Jürgen Schrempf, left, in Stuttgart yesterday, with Manfred Gentz and Manfred Bischoff

Daimler designed to turn Dasa into Europe's leading aerospace business. It assembled Dornier, the turboprop manufacturer, MTU in jet engines, a helicopter business and a powerful warplane activity to underpin its 37.8 per cent stake in Airbus.

But the rapidly increasing strength of the German mark and guildler against the US dollar, in which civil aircraft are priced, began to tear this rickety jigsaw apart.

A battle with BAE's Avro subsidiary for rising order volumes left Fokker selling planes below the cost of production. Despite shedding 3,900 workers in the past three years, Fokker still contrived to lose 651 million guilders during

the first half of last year. With shareholders' funds effectively wiped out, the company was technically bankrupt. Only Dasa's financial lifeline kept it going until talks with the Dutch Government about a huge cash injection collapsed on Friday.

During the first half, Dasa lost DM1.6 billion, including DM12 bn of provisions. It plans to shed 9,000 workers. Talks with BMW Rolls-Royce, about the possible sale of its jet engine business, appear to have collapsed because of MTU's close ties with Pratt & Whitney. But the pledge by Manfred Bischoff, the Dasa chief, to concentrate on Airbus puts the future of Dornier's turboprops into doubt.

Daimler is now facing a 1995 loss of DM6 billion, including provisions of DM2.3 billion to end its responsibilities at Fokker. Daimler's ambitions to be an "integrated technology concern" have foundered. It is retreating to its core car and truck business, putting its railway business into a joint venture with ABB, radically restructuring its AEG electrical arm.

British Aerospace could be the real winner from Daimler's travails. It is now leading the restructuring of Europe's aerospace and defence industry, from which it appears poised to emerge as the dominant player, perhaps in partnership with Aerospatiale and Dassault of France.



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	£25,000+	3.37	3.40
	£100,000+	3.56	3.60
	£250,000+	3.80	3.85
Premium Business Account	£5,000+	4.17	4.25
	£25,000+	4.65	4.75
	£100,000+	4.89	5.00
	£250,000+	5.13	5.25
Clients Premium Deposit Account	£25,000+	3.97	4.00
	£100,000+	4.46	4.50
Treasury Account	Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00
	£2,000+	1.49	1.50
	£10,000+	3.45	3.50

Gross: The rate before the deduction of income tax. CAR, Compounded Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments. All rates are quoted per annum. With effect from 18th January 1996 Base Rate was reduced by 0.25% to 6.25%.

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## LAW

● BULLETPROOF? 33  
● LAW REPORT 19

Roger Barry on the failures of a system that rates insurance cover above life



## Death takes a back seat

Few people would consider a £200 fine appropriate for a driver who crashed into and killed two teenagers walking along a pavement. But that was the punishment, together with eight penalty points, for James Inglis after he drove into two army cadets in the West Yorkshire town of South Elmsall just before Christmas.

The penalty triggered public outrage, especially as the driver did not have insurance (for which he was fined £360). The fines were not exceptionally lenient — British courts routinely impose fines of £200 or less on drivers who kill on the road.

The case highlights the fundamental flaws in a legal system that allows almost all drivers who kill to escape full censure for the deaths they have caused. In February last year Inglis fell asleep at the wheel and swerved into a group of army cadets walking home. One, Gareth Horton, 14, died soon after the crash, and Gavin Parsons, 17, died a week later. A third cadet, thrown over a wall, suffered serious leg and arm injuries.

Inglis said he had been working a string of 12-hour shifts and that just before the crash he had driven with the demister on and the car window open to ward off drowsiness. He pleaded guilty to a charge of "driving without due care and attention".

Drivers responsible for deaths on the road usually face either this charge or the more serious "causing death by dangerous driving". The more serious charge carries a maximum of ten years' jail and a

driving ban, but under it the police and Crown Prosecution Service must prove that an offender's driving fell far below what could be expected from a competent and careful driver.

There are no fixed criteria for determining exactly what constitutes "competent and careful" driving or what falls far below it — an omission easily exploited by defence lawyers — so the more serious charge, so the penalties are higher. But most drivers who kill on the road are charged

with "careless driving". Magistrates say that, under this charge, they cannot take account of any fatality and must look only at the driving error itself; ie, a motorist who kills an innocent party through negligent driving can be sentenced for that driving only, and not for the death that results from it. The magistrates maintain that the death is a disproportionately tragic consequence of a small driving error.

There are no figures to show how many drivers involved in fatal collisions are charged with "careless driving", which covers a multitude of driving

offences of varying degrees of seriousness, and deaths are not reflected in court records. But the total must run to thousands a year.

In 1988 the North Report on road traffic law considered whether there should be a new offence of "causing death by careless driving" to bridge the gaping divide between the two charges. It opposed a new charge, concluding that "it was wrong in principle to look at consequences, rather than culpability, as an ingredient of an offence" and that "carelessness might amount to no more than a minor error of judgment or a moment's inattention

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## Can a President be legally immune?

Bill Clinton could have hoped for better timing. As the 1996 election year unfolds, he finds himself defending sexual harassment charges over an alleged incident which occurred before he took office.

The lawsuit, brought by Paula Corbin Jones, had been lost in the shuffle until a St Louis Federal Appeals Court held on January 9 that the President is not immune from suit for his unofficial acts, and that the action should proceed. The Supreme Court had previously held in another case, *Nixon v Fitzgerald*, that the President is absolutely immune from civil liability for his official acts "as a functionally mandated incident of the President's unique office, rooted in the constitutional tradition of separation of powers and supported by our history". The appeals court rejected arguments by the President's lawyers that presidential immunity required that the suit be stayed until Mr Clinton left office.

The Jones case would be largely without public interest but for the celebrity of Mr Clinton and the sensational nature of the allegations. At the same time, the legal issues in the case are obscured by the realpolitik — whether the judicial process will work fast enough for the case to be tried before the presidential election.

The facts are these: the state agency where Ms Jones was employed sponsored a Governor's Quality Management conference at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock. Mr Clinton, then Governor of Arkansas, addressed the conference. Ms Jones's story is that at about 2.30pm that day an Arkansas state trooper asked her to visit Clinton in his "business suite" at the Excelsior. She claims she went, hoping for "an enhanced employment opportunity". In the hotel room, she alleges, she met Clinton who made sexual advances towards her which she resisted. As a result of this 15-minute encounter, she claims that she lost employment opportunities with the State of Arkansas and is entitled to \$750,000 (£497,000) in compensatory and punitive damages.

Ms Jones's suit was filed just as the three-year statute of limitations was about to expire. The President has categorically denied all particulars of the incident. The core legal issue is whether Ms Jones is entitled to immediate discovery and trial or whether the action should be stayed until Mr Clinton leaves office. The President's lawyer, Robert Bennett, whose bills have left Mr Clinton "close to bankruptcy", argued successfully in the lower court that Mr Clinton enjoys a temporary immunity from suit, contending that there is a tremendous unfairness in distracting the President over even a plausible allegation

relating to conduct which is claimed to have occurred before he took office.

Mr Bennett's argument is, of course, exaggerated. Mr Clinton is not being asked to spend 365 days a year testifying. Moreover, no legal precedent exists to support Mr Bennett's position. While the Constitution is silent on the point, the Supreme Court has held that the President has absolute immunity from civil liability for his official decisions, but has never passed on the issue of whether the President has immunity for private conduct. The Constitution expressly grants immunity to members of Congress while on the floor or going and coming therefrom. But Mr Bennett argues for an even broader implied immunity for the President.

No previous President has ever claimed an immunity for unofficial conduct. Were such an immunity to be recognised, it would follow, for example, that the President might avoid debts incurred before taking office or liability for personal injury inflicted before taking office. If a president is too busy with the problems of state to testify at a deposition or defend himself from civil suits, how can he justify taking holidays, attending to musical events or jogging? Does the President's immunity extend to his spouse as well? Does Mr Bennett contend that Mrs Clinton is as immune as the President? Mrs Clinton is also busy tending to the problems of the nation. And does immunity cover the White House staff? Does it cover criminal as well as civil wrongdoing, including acts occurring before he took office?

And what of Ms Jones's case against Trooper Ferguson, Mr Clinton's co-defendant, who allegedly set up the encounter. Is that case to be stayed as well? Does presidential immunity also extend to the President's former bodyguards? The appeals court held it did not.

The court may, understandably, wish to spare the nation the lurid spectacle of discovery and trial in a sensational case against a sitting President; but Ms Jones, lest we forget, has a constitutional right to her timely day in court. Though Mr Bennett dismissed Ms Jones and her story as "tabloid trash", justice is supposed to be blind to the status of the plaintiff as well as the defendant, and all are supposed to be equal under the law. Courts often stay actions for periods of time, pending some future happening which may dispose of the entire controversy; it is this legal manoeuvring that takes time. However unjust the result, it seems highly unlikely that the case of Paula Corbin Jones against William Jefferson Clinton will be tried before the November election.

● The author is a partner in Brown & Wood, a New York law firm.



JAMES D. ZIRIN

### BRITAIN'S ROAD TOLL

- Deaths on British roads in 1994 (based on most recent figures): 3,650
- Drivers charged in the Crown Courts of England and Wales with "causing death by dangerous driving": 338
- Number of convictions on this charge: 234

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# The bulletproof barristers

Advocates cannot be sued over work for the courts.

**Gary Slapper** explains how this might change

If an electrician, a decorator, a surgeon or a security guard acts negligently in the course of his work, he may be sued for damages. The potential liability applies to anyone exercising an occupational skill, and sometimes the cost of a negligent mistake can be enormous. Last December the High Court made a £65 million award against partners in a firm of accountants after the firm negligently prepared a company audit that was relied on by a purchaser. Nonetheless, if a lawyer acting as an advocate ruins a case through sheer carelessness, then, however dire the evidence against the lawyer, barristers and solicitor-advocates are protected by a special immunity from being sued for catastrophic court work, and work "intimately connected" with court performance. This week the Court of Appeal will hear the first of two cases that challenge the protection of advocates.

There is a further rule that sometimes makes it unnecessary for a lawyer even to invoke the immunity principle. If he or she is accused of "ruining a criminal defence by a (convicted) client, there is a rule that requires an action for negligence to be struck out as an "abuse of the process of the court" if it involves a "collateral attack" on another competent court.

In other words, one cannot get a civil court to reopen a criminal trial by claiming that the conviction resulted from a lawyer's negligence. To do so might bring the system into disrepute by accommodating criminal and civil cases with conflicting decisions in relation to the same incident. In one case, a judge commented that though the rule against such "re-litigation" is a hardship to the victim of the lawyer's negligence, and an undesired and undesirable bonus by way of protection to a negligent lawyer, it is a "price which must be paid in the interests of certainty and finality, which are themselves necessary components in the proper administration of justice".



This week's appeal centres on the abuse-of-process rule. It concerns a Chris Smith, who was convicted of aggravated burglary in 1984 and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. In 1990, after serving his sentence, he sued Linskills, the firm of solicitors that acted for him in the trial, claiming damages for negligent handling of the case. He sought compensation for loss of liberty, of opportunity to earn a living during his period of imprisonment, and for loss of reputation.

The judges will have to decide if such a case should be struck out as an abuse of process, and they will, no doubt, authoritatively define the limits of the public policy against having criminal convictions impugned in related civil proceedings. The advocates' immunity from negligence actions goes back 200 years. Its scope has been narrowed over the years but there was

confirmation of it by the House of Lords in 1969 in the case *Rondel v Worsley*. This held that barristers could not be sued by their clients for negligent performance in court or for work preparatory to court work. In 1980 the immunity was also extended to solicitors who act as advocates.

Now that more solicitors are qualifying as advocates (about 300 have higher rights of audience), the point has a wider significance. The immunity is usually justified on the ground that advocacy could not be executed to the desired standards if its practitioners were always worried about being sued for negligence.

There are also public policy considerations. In 1980, Lord Wilberforce said that the immunity was based mainly on the ground

that "a barrister owes a duty to the court as well as to his client and should not be inhibited, through fear of an action by his client, from performing it". He also cited "the undesirability of re-litigation, as between barrister and client, of what was litigated between the client and his opponent".

Other points in defence of the immunity have been advanced. It has been said, for example, that the "cab-rank rule" (by which barristers are obliged to take the next case irrespective of its desirability in their opinion) would be difficult to apply properly if barristers had to take on clients who could pursue actions against them. The rule has been a hallowed part of legal doctrine. Tom Paine, the radical writer, once said that if ever an advocate could capriciously choose whether to "stand between the Crown and the subject arraigned",

then, "from that moment the liberties of England are at an end".

But it could be argued that rules, protective as they are to barristers, have been contrived by judges — mostly senior barristers who have spent their working lives in that profession — who have a particular sympathy for the work, worries and economic interests of advocates. Surgeons and plumbers do not make the law on the circumstances in which they can and cannot be sued.

Whether barristers would be influenced to do their work differently by the thought that they might be sued for negligence must be in doubt. And is the reopening of a case necessarily a bad thing if someone has been wrongly imprisoned because of a lawyer's negligence? Nor is there much prospect of a wave of "re-litigation" in view of the other barriers facing a potential litigant. Advocates are liable only for negligence, not errors of judgment. So abolishing the immunity rule would not entitle litigants to sue their barristers successfully for any error in the handling of the case.

It would have to be the sort of mistake that no reasonably competent advocate would have made in the circumstances.

In a leading House of Lords case from 1981, the court accepted the striking-out of a civil action in circumstances where they perceived the real object of the action as the release of the Birmingham Six rather than the recovery of monetary damages. Where a dissatisfied client has already been released when he sues, and where there is "fresh evidence", the position may be less clear. In a case to be heard later this year, the Court of Appeal will have to reconsider the limits to a barrister's immunity from suit. A man who served 28 months of a four-year sentence for drug trafficking is protesting his innocence, and is suing his barrister for negligent presentation of his defence.

The immunity rule, if not the procedural rule, is now widely seen as anachronistic. Last year the Consumers' Association called for the immunity to be scrapped in line with a tenet well respected in legal circles, that there should be "no wrong without a remedy". But for how much longer can the law plead special circumstances and maintain immunity against change?

Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

## Does anybody love lawyers?

The solicitors' organisation set up to handle clients' complaints is not satisfying the public, a survey finds

High levels of dissatisfaction with the way in which the solicitors' profession handles complaints by the public are at the heart of a survey just published by the Law Society. In a sample of 2,246 complainants to the Solicitors Complaints Bureau, the society found 67 per cent were unhappy with the outcomes.

Almost half thought the bureau was "heavily influenced" in favour of solicitors and the legal profession.

People who were told by the bureau they did not have a valid complaint, or that their case was closed and that the bureau could not take the matter any further, were particularly dissatisfied.

The survey, by the Law Society's own research and policy planning unit, is the most comprehensive to date on complaints-handling and will be crucial to the current debate on how the bureau should be reformed.

Based in Leamington Spa, the bureau costs the solicitors' profession in England and Wales £9 million a year and has been the butt of criticism both from solicitors, who claim that it is costly and over-interventionist, and the public, who feel it is biased and ineffective.

The biggest proportion of complaints was over conveyancing and divorce or family work, although some was generated by personal injury work. The most frequent complaints were excessive delay (more than 50 per cent), failure to respond to phone calls or letters and failure to follow instructions.

The next biggest category of complaint concerned excessive charges; almost a third complained about them. Clients had high expectations of how their solicitor would deal with the complaint and two thirds thought their lawyer would take it seriously and put matters right. But most thought

their solicitor's response fell short of what they expected.

Almost half considered their solicitor no help at all. Some of the sample had been referred by the bureau back to the solicitor to be dealt with by the firm's own complaints procedures; mostly, these were more satisfied than those who went to the bureau.

The Law Society research unit concludes that people want simpler, faster procedures, more communication with bureau staff to clarify the complaint and to get feedback about the solicitor's response, and continuity of staff dealing with the complaint. They want staff to give equal

consideration to both sides of the story, to monitor progress and report on it to them, and to have more powers to require action from solicitors.

Martin Mears, the Law Society president, said: "The survey... emphasises the need for all solicitors to take their clients' complaints seriously."

The National Consumer Council welcomed the survey and said that "tough remedies" were needed.

Ruth Evans, council director, said: "The results came as no surprise. They confirm our analysis of the bureau, published in 1994, which showed poor communication, failure to respond to inquiries, intolerable delays, lack of thoroughness in investigating complaints and failure to explain adequately the reasons for decisions."

Michael Barnes, Legal Services Ombudsman, said the survey painted a "bleak picture". He said that 60 to 70 per cent of the 20,000 complaints it received each year were resolved without the need for formal investigation, but the research showed that two thirds were dissatisfied with the outcome.

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Michael Chambers

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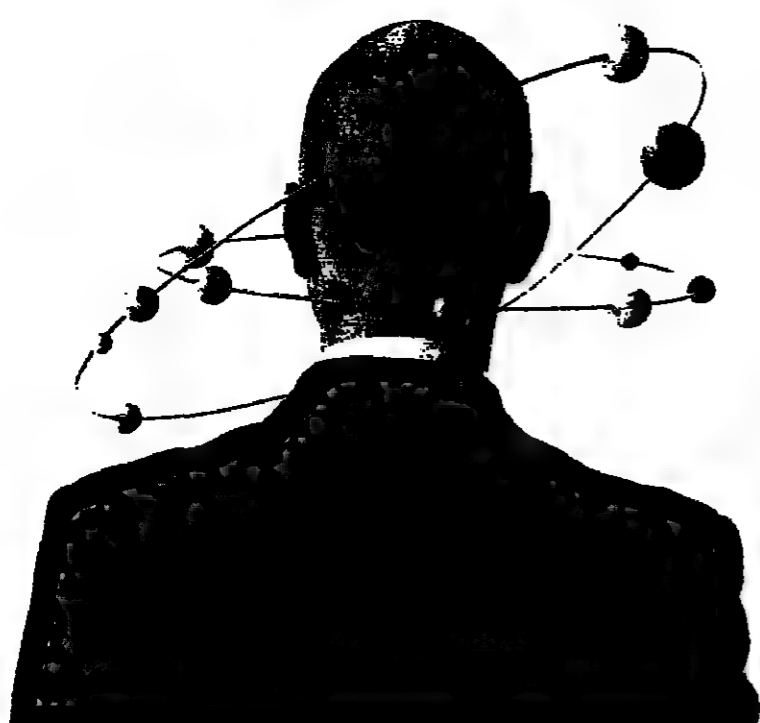
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THEATRE

Willis Hall recalls the genesis of a classic anti-war play, now being restaged



DANCE

It cost half a million, but the lighting's still grim: the Royal Ballet revives *Beauty*

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

Dawn Upshaw resuscitates the songs of Charles Ives as part of the BBC's festival



MUSIC 2

... and Schubert's Lieder are sung with rare intensity by Wolfgang Holzmair at the Wigmore Hall

Last year he was at death's door; now life is full of revivals for a veteran playwright. **Benedict Nightingale** reports

# The long and the short of Willis Hall

A few months ago, Willis Hall's wife was told to expect the worst. The dramatist was in intensive care after an operation on his burst stomach. There were 18 tubes protruding from his body and all his breathing was being done by a machine. But it was not a ghost in his native Leeds the other day. Had I asked him to, this trim, spry 66-year-old could probably have produced an egg from his ear or sown the waitress in half. A little-known fact about Hall is that he is a member of every Magic Circle from here to America to Malta, where he has a flat.

A better-known fact is that, before he started collaborating with Keith Waterhouse or writing his own children's novels or penning columns for a Leeds paper or doing the hundred-and-one things that fill his mornings now, he wrote *The Long and the Short and the Tall*. Back in 1959 the play made his name and that of Peter O'Toole. It has been on the schools syllabus for years and, opening tomorrow, receives an overdue revival.

Small world, Leeds. Small world, the world. Hall was born in a section of the city called Hunslet, 100 yards from the O'Toole family and 400 from the Waterhouse home. His and O'Toole's parents were drinking together, despite a difference in status: "We lived in a working-class house that had a scullery, while they just had a living room downstairs". He and Waterhouse belonged to the same youth clubs and enthusiastically chased skirt together.

Hall left school at 14, but did not follow his father into the engineering factory. Wearing a trilby and a belted raincoat, he made a few pence from a local paper reporting the names of mourners at funerals and revellers at weddings, then had an unsuccessful stint as a trawlerman sailing out of Hull, then signed on as a professional soldier. That took him to Malaya, where he seems to have spent as much time writing plays for the Chinese schools department of the local radio station as flogging as a Signals corporal.

Seven years after joining up he was back in England, "and the first thing I saw from the troopship was this strange array of television aerials everywhere". But radio was still his main medium, and he wrote play after play, also finding time to direct an obscure actor called John Dexter in a production of Anouilh's *Antigone* at Nottingham YWCA. He was a pretty experienced dramatist by the time Peter Dews asked him to write a theatre piece for the company of eight male undergraduates he was taking from Oxford to the 1958 Edinburgh Festival.

That remit, plus an Edinburgh hall where exits and entrances meant awkward clambering through the audience, got him thinking: the Army, Malaya, the Japanese invasion, a British patrol trapped in the jungle. The result was a play at first called *Disciplines of War* and later, and less happily, *The Long and the Short and the Tall*. Hall agrees that it is less "a savage indictment of the senselessness of war", as the Penguin edition claims, than a study of the morality of killing. The regular sergeant who does not flinch from deciding whether a prisoner should live or die, he says, is the real hero.

The play was admired by Kenneth Tynan and snapped up by the high-flying Royal Court, which cast Albert Finney as the cockney mischief-maker, Bamforth. But a week into rehearsals Finney got appendicitis — and the unknown O'Toole replaced him. He never missed a performance, much to the disappointment of his understudy, one Michael Caine.

That was surprising. That was surprising, offering and may be followed by a stage piece about two magicians and another about the more obscure First World War poets.

6 Hall writes from 7am to lunchtime, 365 days a year



"When I was convalescing [from major surgery] I got my son to drive me to Tesco's, and for an hour I walked up and down the aisles," Willis Hall says

Hall is still able to continue his practice of writing from 7am to lunchtime 365 days a year, thanks both to the doctors who snatched him from the jaws of death and, he says, to his local branch of Tesco's. "When I was convalescing I got my son to drive me there, and for an hour I walked up and down the aisles. There was a nice even temperature and no fear of tripping up. It made the staff curious, but it did me the world of good."

Meanwhile, he is waiting expectantly for the buzz that seeing *The Long and the Short and the Tall* has always given him. Indeed, this time the buzz may be greater than usual, for the soldiers will at last be talking as soldiers talk, not as the Lord Chamberlain decreed they talk back in 1959. "Crumbies" will go. A rude song or two will be added, along with the odd Saxon curse.

Who knows, Kevin Dignam's Bamforth may even under the word that nearly wrecked the play when O'Toole used it in 1959. One of the censor's spies was policing the production that night, and the Court was warned that, if ever it was heard again, the production would be closed. And what was this destroyer of decency, this verbal A-bomb? "Pileck."

● *The Long and the Short and the Tall* opens tomorrow at the Bristol Shaw Theatre, Bristol Hill, London SW2 (0171-374 6490)

Hall has lost count of all he has written, with or without Waterhouse, for the theatre, radio, television and assorted publishers. Recently he has done several adaptations for Sheffield Crucible, most successfully Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* and a Jane Eyre that boasted Jack Shepherd as Mr Rochester and Emma Fielding as Jane. Recently, too, he finished yet another volume in a long-running series of children's books about a boy called Henry Hollins and his friend, a vegetarian vampire from Transylvania. A musical version of *Peter Pan* is in the

offing and may be followed by a stage piece about two magicians and another about the more obscure First World War poets.

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CONCERTS: Schubert song; the Ives celebration; and a fine guitarist

## Drama in his voice

Holzmair/Wyss Wigmore Hall

THE Wigmore Hall has shuddered more than once this month to the strains of Schubert's little horror story *Der Zwerg*, about the dwarf who murders his queen on their strange voyage on that dreadfully calm sea. On Friday, though, for the first time, the palms of my hands were convincingly cold and clammy by the end of the song.

Wolfgang Holzmair's ability to compel an audience's interest beyond the singer's persona and into the world of the song grows steadily. It is six years since he first appeared at the Wigmore Hall, and in that time both his light, lyrical baritone and his interpretative insight have sharpened in focus. Like the great tenor Peter Schreier, he makes graphic use of hand gestures in what often seems like a heightened poetry reading.

For *Der Zwerg*, a distant half-voice, high in the head, set the scene of that luminous dusk at sea. The voices of queen and dwarf leapt out all the more startlingly into the foreground, with Schubert's rhythms blade-sharp and the dwarf's name slashed out. This is Schubert — and Hilary Finch

## Tribute to an enigma

Ives Festival Barbican

THERE is a nice irony in the fact that Charles Ives, who deplored the invention of radio, should have had his work so comprehensively celebrated last weekend by a broadcasting corporation. A mini-festival such as the BBC's *The Unanswered Question* could not, American visitors told me, have happened in Ives's own country.

It came to a triumphant, if suitably enigmatic, conclusion on Sunday with a song recital by Dawn Upshaw and Thomas Hampson, followed by a BBC Symphony Orchestra concert including the Symphonies Nos 2 and 4.

Ives's songs encompass nostalgic romanticism, atmospheric impressionism, outdoor marching songs and iconoclastic gestures of all kinds. Upshaw and Hampson, with the advantage of native accents and a hint of lowbrow crooning, were perfectly in tune with the idiom, and with Craig Rutenberg, a fully involved pianist, the controlled anarchy of *Canon* and *Charlie Rutledge* was graphically projected.

The evening concert began with bracing performances under Stephen Jackson of the

*Three Harvest Home Chorales* for chorus, organ and brass. As in *General William Booth Enters into Heaven*, heard later in the programme (Peter Coleman-Wright the admirable soloist), there is a transcendental quality to this music that demands it be taken seriously.

The same is surely true of the famous discord that ends the Second Symphony. Calum MacDonald argued in his excellent programme notes that the effect is angry as well as humorous, and so it seems to me — although the conductor Andrew Davis seems not to endorse this view. The discordance was briefly touched on, thus drawing the sting.

But, with the exception of the exhilarating run-up to the final chord, this was a curiously polite, low-key reading altogether. It cried out for an injection of Mahlerian schmaltz in the Adagio, for a more unbuttoned delivery of all those vernacular patriotic songs and fiddling tunes.

A liberating sense of danger and meticulous preparation went hand in hand in the Fourth Symphony, however. A fantastically complex web of pre-existing tunes makes the textures of the second movement some of the densest ever composed, yet the achievement of this performance was that the chaos never seemed gratuitous or a puerile joke.

If there was "comedy" at all, it was black comedy. An apocalyptic quality was a forceful reminder that this was the work of a visionary, writing during the turbulent years preceding the First World War.

BARRY MILLINGTON

DANCE: Royal Ballet steps out to recoup a half-million-pound investment

## In need of a lighter touch

THE Royal Ballet is certainly getting good mileage out of its new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. It opened the 1994-95 season at Covent Garden, and here it is back again in the 1995-96 season for a further 15 performances. Like it or loathe it, we are going to be seeing rather a lot of it.

Tonight on part two of the BBC2 documentary *The House* you will see why: because the production carried a £500,000 price tag, thanks to Maria Bjornson's elaborate designs, it will take years to recoup the cost. Maybe by the time it has paid for itself we will have grown accustomed to its huge, distorted face.

When the curtain rose on Saturday night it was immediately apparent that the production's greatest flaw — its appalling lighting — remains intact. The hostile glare not only makes the sets and costumes look hideous, it also leaves some of the dancers in dark shadow at the very moment when one is expecting to see their every step. This was particularly annoying in the case of the Fairies variations in the Prologue, where dancers of outstanding quality — Nicola Roberts and Deborah Bull among them — were badly served by the lighting designer, Pat Collins.

Viviana Durante didn't seem to need artificial lighting, so radiant was her Aurora. Durante came down Bjorn-

Sleeping Beauty Covent Garden

son's formidable staircase and launched into Aurora's duelling solo as if no hurdles were going to stand in her way. The confidence of her dancing was exhilarating to watch. She took the Rose Adagio at a crawl (with Paul Connelly obliging in the pit) and pulled off the most gloriously self-indulgent balances, even delaying the final triumphant flourish as if determined to enjoy every second of a gruelling challenge. And it was not all technical bravado, either: the sheer beauty that was invested in the detail of her dancing was astonishing.

Durante's Princess was happy and charming, flirting with her cavaliers but listening to father with daughterly respect. No wonder she captivated Bruce Sanson's ardent Prince Florimund.

It was a good night for the rest of the cast, too. Benazir Hussein has really grown in the role of the Lilac Fairy. She still lacks strength for the big slow turns but she savours her balances most attractively. Belinda Hatley, Roberts and Sarah Wildor were a superlative Silver, Sapphire and Diamond in Act III. And Monica Mason, as the wicked witch Carabosse, had a great time spoiling everyone else's party.

DEBRA CRAINE



Viviana Durante: she was radiant as Aurora, and the confidence of her dancing was exhilarating to watch

## Spanish in parts

SCO/Serebrier Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

THE MOST eloquent expression of Spanish idiom in Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* is in the slow movement. Attractive though the dance rhythms of the outer movements are, it is only in the vocally inspired central adagio, where every note in the decorative improvisation of the solo guitar has its significance, that Rodrigo penetrates the picture-postcard surface to the emotional reality behind it. It was here, in a spontaneously intimate display of *duende*, that Sharon Isbin, the soloist in this performance, was most persuasive.

Isbin is not Spanish but American. So there was no reason why, with authentic encouragement, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra should not have given equally idiomatic performances of Turina's *La Oración del Torero* and Falla's *El Amor Brujo*. Though he is not Spanish either, conductor José Serebrier is a musician with many of the right qualifications for a programme of this kind. The problem was in his stick technique, which seemed

to be self-indulgent and awkward, tending to beat the rhythm rather than the metre, or neither.

The SCO is too expert to be seriously disturbed by this, but for the orchestra to articulate the rhythms in a stylish rather than generalised way, it needs clarity and precision in direction. In the French work, Fauré's incidental music for *Pelléas et Mélisande*, it achieved a pleasing fluency.

In less familiar areas, such as Serebrier's own eccentric *Fantasia* for strings and Turina's *Oración*, it did not. Happily, in *El Amor Brujo* (the suite rather than the full ballet score) the conductor resorted to more conventional means and secured a performance which was highly coloured and dramatically atmospheric.

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**NATIONAL GALLERY**



**■ VISUAL ART 1**  
Czech artist Jana Sterbak comes to the Serpentine with a sour show of installations



**■ VISUAL ART 2**  
... while at the Liverpool Tate, Susan Hiller assembles a compelling homage to heroism

## THE TIMES ARTS



**■ VISUAL ART 3**  
Alfred Helberger's troubled life and work is revealed in a first British retrospective



**■ VISUAL ART 4**  
... and, also in London, the mysterious wood sculptures of Katsura Funakoshi go on display

**VISUAL ART: Richard Cork finds two women's views of death are both shocking and stirring; plus other shows**

# Haunted by imitations of mortality

Few of the artists in *Rites of Passage*, the elegiac exhibition held at the Tate last summer, let us escape the prospect of death. Jana Sterbak, Prague-born but living now in Montreal, presented mortality in all its rawness with her most notorious work: *Vanitas*, *Flesh Dress for an Albino Anorectic*. True to her provocative title, Sterbak clothed a metallic tailor's dummy in a dress made from fast-withering slices of flank steak. No image of bodily decay could have been more carnal and brutally direct.

Now Sterbak has returned, with a mini-retrospective at the Serpentine Gallery. But the willingness to shock is confined, this time, to a work at the far end of the final room. From a distance, *Seduction Couch* looks alluring enough. To anyone versed in European painting it recalls the chaise longue where Madame Recamier reclines in David's great portrait. But the nearer we approach, the more disconcerting the couch becomes. No smiling society woman in neoclassical robes occupies its curving surface. The couch is empty, and Sterbak's decision to construct it from perforated steel abolishes the notion of comfort.

A powerful spotlight beams on to it, casting a cage-like pattern on the wall behind. The electrostatic energy pulsing through the work gives out a regular crack, and anyone who ignores its warning and touches the couch will receive a sharp shock — harmless, no doubt, but enough to obliterate all thought of the pleasures of the flesh.

Knowing that Sterbak spent her first 13 years in Czechoslovakia, before her family emigrated to Canada in 1968, we may be tempted to wonder if this disrupted life has affected the art she produces. The Soviet invasion of her native country prompted the move, and the tyranny of a Communist regime would have given Sterbak an unforgettable in-

sight into the fragility of human life. But she has lived sufficiently long in Canada to know the shortcomings of capitalism, too. The cynicism souring her work shows that she has no faith in systems, and every expectation that individual liberty is threatened by rules on every side.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Serpentine's first room. A man on a video screen tries to read out all 17 articles of *The Declaration of the Rights of Man*, the corner-

**6 Strange sounds are, it is claimed, the mutterings of the dead**

stone of the French Revolution. He soon begins to stammer, and his struggle to enunciate words as important as "power" or "citizen" gradually militates against the text's conviction. By the end of his performance, the effort involved has become excruciating. The confident idealism of the words is undermined by the reader's writhings.

Throughout the show, Sterbak arouses expectations only in order to confound them. Hair sprouts at chest-level from the chemise de nuit dangling so seductively from its hanger. The back of a man's head establishes an imposing presence but then, at the top of his neck, discloses the bar-code stamped like a convict's mark on his skin. In a screen projection called *Sisyphus III*, a powerfully built male figure finds himself encased in an aluminium and chrome structure. He expends all his energies reacting to the incessant, queasy lurch of the inescapable, queasy lurch of his limbs. Sterbak reinforces its dominance by displaying the

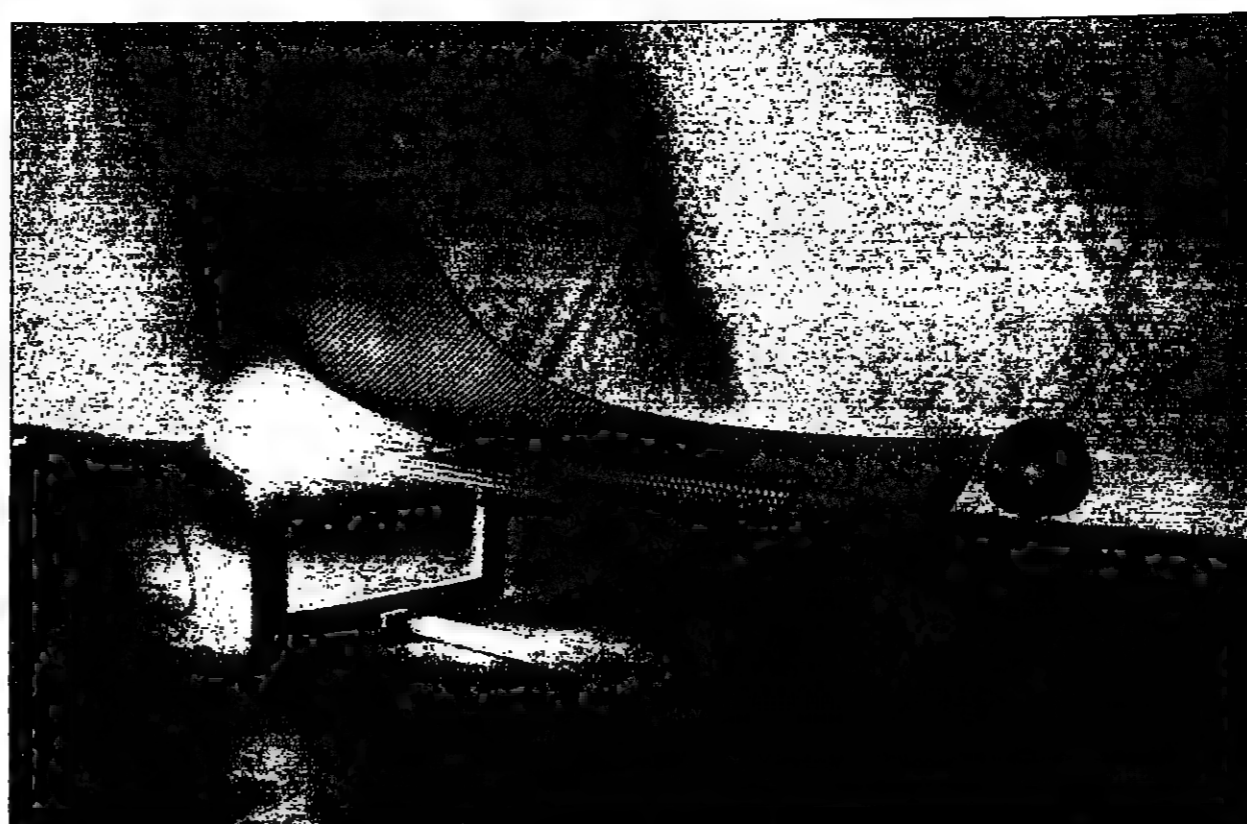
structure, empty and waiting for its next occupant, on the gallery floor.

Against the odds, the exhibition does not seem unendurably gloomy. Even the macabre dress of raw steak suggested that Sterbak has a well-developed sense of the absurd, and the endless strivings in *Sisyphus III* are leavened by the humour inherent in their futility. The man is athletic and poised enough to earn our respect as well. On some level, Sterbak admires his agile persistence, his absorption in the task of coping with the unsteadiness and confinement.

In a recent video work, *Condition*, she even raises the hope of escape. Tracked by an incessantly moving camera, a man staggers round a deserted airport filmed in bleak, grey monochrome. His body is attached to a wire-mesh object on wheels, curving away behind him and hampering his movements. We hear his breath on the sound system, increasingly harsh and beleaguered. The swirling mobility of the filming contrasts ironically with his burdened figure, and at one point he dwindles into invisibility as the camera races away on a joyride. Near the end, though, he manages to throw off his appendage. Abandoned on the empty track, it suggests that Sterbak is moving towards a rather more optimistic view of the human predicament.

Susan Hiller, whose contribution to *Rites of Passage* launched a rasping assault on the senses, is also staging a retrospective. At the London Tate last year, she used four video projectors, quadrophonic sound and interlocking video programmes to bombard the viewer with the violence of Punch and Judy shows. Now, at the Liverpool Tate, she reveals the full extent of her range in a very substantial, beautifully installed survey that deserves wide attention.

The continuity of Hiller's interests, conveyed in such a



Jana Sterbak's literally electrifying *Seduction Couch* (top) and Susan Hiller's installation *At the Freud Museum*

striking variety of ways, is revealed here more clearly than before. For more than 20 years, this American-born artist has lived in London and dedicated herself to reclaiming overlooked aspects of our culture. Early on, she amassed an astonishing collection of seaside postcards showing apoca-

lyptic waves crashing against the shore. Typically, Hiller called the series *Dedicated to the Unknown Artists*. And she later made one of her largest, most commanding works from plaques memorialising forgotten deaths of heroism.

Found in a London park, the plaques have been photo-

graphed and arranged on the wall in an imposing cruciform sequence. An ordinary bench stands in front of them, inviting us to sit down and listen to a tape on which Hiller talks of memory and death. But the most moving parts of *Monument* are the inscriptions on the plaques themselves, many

recounting with grave simplicity the deaths of children drowned while attempting to save a sibling or friend. The plaques are elegantly designed, and flanked by floral borders in a sinuous art nouveau style. But Hiller lodges among the plaques a photograph of graffiti exhort-

ing its readers in smudgy capitals: **STRIVE TO BE YOUR OWN HERO.**

The act of uncovering the images in *Monument*, and giving them new, suitably elegiac form, lies at the centre of Hiller's concerns. But the Liverpool show proves that her method of manifesting those interests has always been admirably unpredictable. Her most powerful and mysterious works are presented in darkened rooms, where she asks the viewer to suspend disbelief in surprisingly demanding ways. Large circles of coloured light, in red, yellow and blue, are projected on to a wall in *Magic Lantern*. As they intersect, swell, shrink and separate, the after-images are spookily matched by sounds. Hiller chants some of the time, but the strangest passages come from voices recorded by the Latvian psychologist Konstantin Raudive, who insisted that he was able to tape the disembodied mutterings of dead people.

While she is aware of implausibility inherent in such claims, Hiller refuses to discount them altogether. Obsessed by the way culture so easily leads to curtailment and "a form of partial picturing", she is prepared to entertain a belief in phenomena which others often dismiss.

The most spellbinding work on view, *Belshazzar's Feast*. The *Writing on your Wall*, starts with the simple flickering of video-projected flames. A child's voice can be heard, trying to describe the activity in Rembrandt's explosive painting of Belshazzar. Encouraged by the words, we find ourselves reading figures into the flames. And then the focus shifts to apparitions appearing on television screens late at night, after programme transmission has finished.

Whispering on the sound-track, Hiller reads out testimony from people who insist that they saw such phantasms. As if in response to their words, the flames in the video take on larger and ever more ghost-like forms. Are they manifestations of the dead, or warnings of an apocalypse as terrible as the one confronting Belshazzar? Leaping up the wall like tongues of fire, these irrepressible images rejoice in Hiller's willingness to give them the benefit of the doubt.

● Jana Sterbak at the Serpentine Gallery, London (071-723 9072) until Feb 25  
● Susan Hiller at the Tate Gallery Liverpool (0151-709 3223) until March 17

## Watercolours make a bit of a splash

When the Society Associated for the Purposes of Establishing an Annual Exhibition of Painters in Watercolours was founded in 1804, it was not so much to rival the Royal Academy as to supplement its activities by offering a forum specifically for watercolourists.

Though Turner was already an RA, the Society of Painters in Watercolour (as it instantly, less cumbrously became) was masterminded by his close friend William Frederick Wells, and Turner remained until his death in 1852 the guiding spirit.

The "Old" Watercolour Society's exhibitions were always grand, and much favoured by Royals even before it became officially Royal in 1881. The very first show, in 1805, was a sensational success, visited by 12,000 during its seven weeks. Rapidly the society went from strength to strength.

Also, it took itself very seriously as a centre of record, especially when Joseph John Jenkins was secretary, 1854-64. He sent out a printed questionnaire designed to elicit fact and anecdote about all members, past and present. After his death his papers were lost sight of until about ten years ago. Now they have been catalogued by Simon Penwick, who has put together the show *Runnige to Your Heart's Content* at the society's home, the Bankside Gallery (until Sunday).

The show concerns not only the RWS, but its parallel organisation, the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers, founded as the Society of Painter-Etchers in 1880 and dubbed Royal in 1888. The intentions of this were similar to those of the watercolour group. The RSPS shares the Bankside Gallery and along with the RWS has a rollcall of

### AROUND THE GALLERIES

members that sounds like a *Who's Who* of British art in the last century and a half.

*Runnige to Your Heart's Content* (the title comes from an 1853 letter to Jenkins from George Fripp, answering an inquiry about his papers) shoehorns in an amazing number of members from both societies. The show begins with three paintings which were actually in the first 1805 show, and Rigaud's famous, if bizarre *The Genius of Painting Contemplating the Rainbow* (1807), in which, while gazing heavenward, the Genius nonchalantly dips his brush into a convenient canteen right behind him. Later, there is just about everyone you could imagine, from Burne Jones to Sophie Knight, who has just turned 30.

The one person you do not find there, of course, is the tutelary deity Turner, because he never was a member. But happily the gap can be filled very satisfactorily in another historical show, *Harewood Masterpieces: English Watercolours and Drawings* at Christie's (until January 26). This offers a useful London showcase for highlights from the collection at Harewood House. Many impressive examples come from the collection made by Viscount Lascelles between 1795 and 1814. He was particularly helpful to Turner and Girtin, and they repaid him with stunning images of the house and estate, which, though mostly sold in 1855, have been reassembled by the family.

The tradition of patronising watercolourists did not die with Edward; later Lascelles bought or commissioned works by later members of the RWS. There is, for example, a



*Bizarre: The Genius of Painting Contemplating the Rainbow* (1807) by Rigaud, at the Bankside Gallery

splendidly characteristic piece by Samuel Palmer, as well as a very passable landscape from the hand of Queen Victoria herself.

*Bankside Gallery, 48 Hopton Street, SE1 (071-428 7521) Christie's, 8 King Street St James's, SW1 (071-834 9060)*

□ Born in 1871, the German artist Alfred Hermann Helberger lived through two world wars, the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust. He killed himself early in 1946, in the most chaotic period of the Allied occupation, because he could not bear life without his Jewish wife, who died in a concentration camp in 1945. If to that one adds the

dramatic evolution of taste from the Secession period in which he first found fame, and his extensive early travels — in 1924-29, for instance, he lived and worked in Brazil — nothing seems more natural than that he should have slipped from the art world's attention.

Until now, that is. At the moment we can have only a partial view of his art, but what there is is extraordinarily impressive. And on the whole it looks remarkably un-German.

After two or three very sober paintings of the 1930s, Helberger suddenly, about 1911, flares into the most brilliant colours. At the same time he evolves a much freer

way of actually putting paint on canvas. Influenced above all, one would imagine, by Van Gogh. Obviously important to his mature style was not only the art he had been seeing on his early sojourns in Paris, but the places he was visiting after his discovery of Norway and Spitzbergen.

During the First World War, Helberger was an official war artist, and produced some hallucinatory pictures. Some portraits from the Twenties are more sober, slightly redolent of the Neue Sachlichkeit, but we can only guess what impact Brazil had on him. It would be thrilling to find out.

*Julian Barran, 42 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-495 0499), until Jan 20*

□ The wood sculpture of Katsura Funakoshi makes one realise just how fine the line is between surrealism and realism. His recent work noticeably extends his range. A characteristic work will be a torso, more or less life-size, carved in fragrant camphor wood and painted in a scrupulously realistic fashion. But Funakoshi is emphatically a carver, and despite the meticulously painted surface one is never left in any doubt that these pieces are cut in wood. The grain and texture of wood, not to mention the scent, are very much part of the total experience.

The tradition in which Funakoshi works is not decisively either eastern or western. There is a sort of hallucinatory intensity about the figures' grave and level regard which moves us towards a different world of experience. This time, in any case, there is something more to confirm the inchoate impression that one should not too readily turn one's back on any of them. One of the major

figures proves, on inspection, to have two faces on one head. This figure is also wearing an extraordinary garment which turns it into a mountain, with tiny, perilously sited houses nestling on either shoulder. It is easy to feel the mysterious power of these presences; much harder to explain it.

*Anxiety Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street, W1 (071-629 7578), until Feb 17*

□ Few artists of major stature can have shown so many faces in such a brief career as Christopher Wood. Undoubtedly in his short life (a mere 29 years before he ended, by accident or design, under a train in 1930) he managed to exert a disproportionate influence on the course of British art. Partly it was because he happened to be painting with Ben Nicholson in St Ives when they discovered the primitive painter Alfred Wallis and his associates. But did Wood ever work out a coherent style for himself? On the evidence of this show one may well suspect that he did not. But does that really matter? Whatever Wood set out to do he did with sublime ease and freedom. The paintings perhaps sometimes feel a little undomestic, but the drawings are uniformly (if diversely) brilliant.

Whatever his mystery was he took it with him to the grave. But the works survive, their ability to tease and enchant still undimmed.

*Michael Parke Gallery, 11 Motcomb Street, SW1 (071-235 8144), until Feb 2*

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## JAZZ

At the Festival Hall, Hugh Masekela leaves it dangerously late to reveal his true talent



## POP

The very image of a wry and independent survivor: Mary Coughlan is back on the road

## THE TIMES ARTS



## CHOICE 1

Simon Callow stages *Les Enfants du Paradis* for the RSC

VENUE: Now previewing at the Barbican



## CHOICE 2

Maria Friedman and *The Three Sisters* are sent to Coventry

VENUE: This week at the Warwick Arts Centre

## More sugar than spice

Hugh Masekela  
Festival Hall

Al those years of noble campaigning against apartheid have rendered Hugh Masekela virtually unrecognisable. Yet the first two-thirds of a surprisingly diffuse performance, it was difficult to suppress the thought that we were listening to a grandmaster who was content to coast on his reputation as the godfather of South African pop.

In his decades of expatriate touring and recording, Masekela has fashioned a timeless style, part African, part Afro-American. That fine balance between two continents and two cultures — so fruitful on the recent live album, *Hope* — was precisely what was missing in the early stages of this concert. Close your eyes and shut your ears to the inky, right-on sentiments of the audience, and the lumbering, four-square rock rhythms were more redolent of South Ruislip than South Africa.

Kwazi Shange opened proceedings with a drum solo which had all the subtlety of mid-Seventies Cozy Powell. Lawrence Matshiza seemed determined to prove that axe-honouring posturing knows no frontiers. To hear the musicians churn out this homogenised funk was as disarming as arriving at a barbecue on Table Mountain and having a limp Big Mac thrust into your hand.

As for Masekela, the "Hello, London" patter, the old jokes about the British accent and the even older chums about the British weather betokened a certain lack of originality, to say the least. His buglehorn playing, too, seemed unusually undisciplined, until he briefly gave way to guest Zulu vocalist Busi Mhlongo. After



The first half of Masekela's concert was more redolent of South Ruislip than South Africa

her departure he and his musicians seemed transformed, with Shange and Matshiza beginning to deploy a bristly pulse woven from supple, ever-shifting, cross-rhythms. Khaya Mahlangu, whose tenor and flute soloing had been the septet's one strong suit earlier on, grew ever more robust. Masekela's playing made a

striking contrast to the music and shew of Mahlangu's tenor. Not an outstanding improviser in a technical sense, he makes a relatively small number of notes do the work for him, reworking phrases with infinitesimal variations. As more revellers joined the party at his feet, he slackened the tempo for his shimmering monologue-cum-rap on

*Simela*, his unadorned account of the coal train carrying migrant labourers to the mines. With most artists, such stark polemic might sit uneasily among the infectious dance material. Masekela's vision is broad enough to embrace both extremes of the human condition.

CLIVE DAVIS

## Driving home under the influences

Wolfgang Muthspiel  
Rhythmic, NI

THE programme notes included a list of ten Austrian guitarist/violinist Wolfgang Muthspiel's favourite records. Glenn Gould playing Brahms and Bach, Edvard Varèse's *Arcana*, Miles Davis's *Neverfit*, Prince's *Parade* and the Beatles' *Abbey Road* — all featured, alongside Muthspiel's assertion that "openness", combined with a "compositional structure beyond the usual derivatives most often heard in today's young lions' music" is his trio's watchword.

As an indication of the extensive musical territory available to the trio, and a guide to the methods it adopted to explore it in two enthralling hour-long sets, the notes were spot on. In bassist Marc Johnson, Muthspiel found both delicate subtlety and vigorous propulsiveness. In Paul Modan, he had

the acknowledged doyen of jazz-trio drummers. The music produced by the three virtuosos — embracing the odd standard (*My Funny Valentine*), the customary bow to Thelonious Monk (*Monk's Dream*), and even a swooning slow version of Lennon and McCartney's *With a Little Help from My Friends* — was rivetingly original, thoughtful and totally absorbing without being forbiddingly stern or esoteric, firmly structured but allowing just enough space for free individual expression from all three men.

Muthspiel is in many ways a quintes-

sential 1990s musician, combining a flawless technique honed by classical training with a restless musical imagination as likely to derive inspiration from Bach as from the blues or the Beatles. His playing juxtaposed lightning-fast runs and subtly chiming chords, softly contemplative finger-picking and sudden crashing climaxes, and Modan and Johnson were with him every step of the way. Whether they were wrestling with the complexities of the Stravinsky-inspired *One More for Joe* or snuffing enjoyably through a typically idiosyncratic blues, the trio produced music of stunning textural variety and extraordinary vision, all guided by three of the finest musical intelligences currently operating in jazz.

CHRIS PARKER

## Back to prove a point

IT IS ten years since her career began in earnest, and Mary Coughlan seems to be back where she began. In 1986 she financed, in the face of record industry indifference, her own debut album *Tired and Emotional*. It was to make her name. Now she is touring again with another independently produced record, *Live in Galway*. In between she signed to (and then fell out with) a major record company, and earned comparisons with Piaf, Peggy Lee, Bessie Smith and K.d. lang.

Coughlan's success has, however, depended on her evocation of gutsy independence, her image as a wry survivor. It was never just her voice, her choice of songs or her personality that set her apart, but the way she com-

Mary Coughlan  
Theatre Royal,  
Norwich

bined all three to become an Irish version of her hero Billie Holiday. Coughlan discovered a bohemian cocktail of jazz, blues and Celtic folk, and that recipe remains for this tour.

The mood in the first half is subdued. It begins with the languid *Lazies*, *Girl* and Jacques Brel's *Hearts*. They are carried off with professional ease, but little passion. Only as she tackles *Magdalen Laundry*, a song about sexual hypocrisy, does she become involved. Clinging to the microphone stand, she shifts from husky whisper to full-throated anger.

She brightens considerably after the interval, with the upbeat *Just a Friend* and the downbeat *I Want to Be Seduced*. "I wouldn't mind a man who wouldn't mind seducing me". Each tune receives lavish but discreet support from her musicians: Conor Barry (guitar), Claran Wilde (saxophones) and Trevor Wright (keyboards). But still Coughlan remained strangely reticent. At every opportunity, she retreated to the back of the stage, and sometimes when singing her hands were thrust into her pockets, like a reluctant schoolgirl forced to perform in front of the class. Her voice, however, evoked the same determined woman who proved the record industry wrong a decade ago.

JOHN STREET

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# Empirical evidence of our past mistakes

Britain's colonial history is not really a subject, despite the fact that I spent a formative year working in an office where one wall was entirely covered by a map of the world. Now and again our proprietors would wander in and stare wistfully at the huge expanse painted in red. Then, with a shake of his distinguished head and a quiet sigh of "happy days", he would stalk out again, ready to renew battle with our huge expenses. Pretty soon, they too were picked out in red.

I digress. The point I was trying to make is that when it comes to our colonial past, I am pretty much a blank sheet of paper, which is why *Hidden Empire* (BBC2) has quickly become unmissable. Each week I arrive in ignorance and each week I am emerged wiser and a little sadder. For the stories definitely do not fit into the category of "our finest hour".

Just how objective these accounts are, a blank sheet of paper is hardly in a position to judge. Certainly, some of the recorded dialogue between what BBC2 describes as "black film-makers", does tend to reduce us Brits to cruel, bloodthirsty buffoons, but when you are dealing with the Amritsar massacre (more than 600 killed) and the Morant Bay uprising (22 killed directly, up to 1,500 executed in the aftermath) that is probably fair enough.

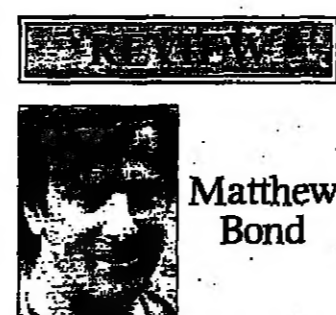
Last night's story concerned just one death — that of Noor Inayat Khan, the first woman radio operator to work behind enemy lines during the Second World War. How this high-born Muslim came to die in Dachau was an extraordinary story. The manner in which Gabriel Berstain, the director, chose to tell it was pretty odd, too.

Previous films have mixed dramatic reconstruction with narra-

tion and archive material. Berstain added one extra ingredient — an interview with Leo Marks, who as head of codes for Special Operations Executive, taught Khan. To say she left an impression on him is an understatement. More than 50 years on, Marks was still entranced. "She was a very beautiful pupil."

Very beautiful, very talented and very unsuited to life as a British agent. Her father, a distinguished musician and mystic, taught her never to lie. So when she was eventually betrayed to the Gestapo, silence, with its inevitable consequence, was her only option.

But too often Marks's mesmerizing recollections and the dramatic reconstruction (Leah Seetson suitably bewitching as Khan) appeared confusingly at odds. Both told the same story but at different speeds. The fact that Berstain had



Matthew Bond

done so little to resolve the two accounts (at times his editing actively encouraged the differences) left us with more questions than is normally considered polite in factual programming.

Best not to ask any questions at all when it comes to *Goodnight Sweetheart* (BBC1), especially not the one about how a sitcom can possibly work when it is based upon a time-traveller with a girl in

each decade. The improbable fact is that it does, with the latest series rising to new heights thanks largely to its creators, Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran.

Very skilfully, they have established Gary (Nicholas Lyndhurst) as that most rare of romantic heroes — a lying, two-timing cheat. Last night, however, was a comparatively tame, from the moment Gary started glowing to the no-talking Ron (Victoria McGuire). "I have the gift of time travel," a lucrative business and the love of two terrific women.

Right on the first two counts but spectacularly wrong, it emerged, on the third. Not content with their fly-by-the-night relationship, both Phoebe and Yvonne (terrifically played by Dervla Kirwan and Michelle Holmes) turned against him.

Phoebe's concern was understandable. In his 1940s, double-breasted jacket, Gary is looking

more and more like a very tall Adolf Hitler, which cannot make the ideal date in war-torn London. "How do you describe our relationship?" she asked, worried that his nocturnal visits were spurred only by a need for "a bit of the other".

"Deep, tender, unique?" So the words bloody awful don't spring to mind? He fared no better with Yvonne, who had taken advantage of his repeated absences to investigate local nightclubs.

Duly chastened, Gary resolved to redouble his romantic efforts — in both time zones. Slightly worryingly, last night's episode rather lost its normally imaginative way with a fancy-dress party finale that veered dangerously towards slapstick. But even the most superior sitcom has its off-moments.

By contrast, the normally reliable and watchable *Cutting Edge* (Channel 4) is in danger of having

an entire off-series. So far in 1996, it has tackled the well worked subjects of car-ringing and sexual harassment. Last night it turned to 1963 and — surprise, surprise — the Great Train Robbery. At this rate it won't be long before someone from the trading standards office insists it is rechristened *Rusty, Blunt Edge*.

*I Married a Great Train Robber* was billed as our first opportunity to hear from Ronnie Biggs's first wife, Charmian, and we did indeed spend a fair amount of time in her emotional company. "I still get a lump that comes up and makes me a bit tearful," she said of her former husband, who abandoned and humiliated her more than 20 years ago.

But we also spent a lot of time in the all too familiar company of Biggs, Bruce Reynolds and Inspector Jack Slipp. A case of being there, done it, didn't get him extradited. Not so far, anyway.

## BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (58930)

7.00am BBC Breakfast News (Ceslex) (2990588)

9.10am *Killybegs* (2744149)

10.00am News (Ceslex) (2792435) 10.05am *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (Ceslex) (2981239)

10.30am Good Morning (Ceslex) (2981239)

12.00pm News (Ceslex) (2981239) 12.05pm Pebble Mill (Ceslex) (2981239)

12.50pm Regional News and weather (1390578)

1.00pm One O'Clock News (Ceslex) and weather (22875)

1.30pm Neighbours (Ceslex) (Ceslex) (2402304)

1.50pm *Banemack* (2314149) WALEs: 1.50pm Dad's Army (7688312) 2.00pm *Knots Landing* (298056)

3.05pm *Timekeepers* (Ceslex) (5482033)

3.30pm *Ants in Your Pants* (Ceslex) (1766304) 3.50pm *ChuckleVision* (Ceslex) (1766304) 4.10pm *Free Willy* (Ceslex) (Ceslex) (2911651) 4.35pm *Run the Risk* (Ceslex) (Ceslex) (2974833)

5.00pm *Newsworld* (Ceslex) (4111255)

5.10pm *Grange Hill* (Ceslex) (Ceslex) (2732945)

5.35pm *Neighbours* (508781) N.I.: 5.35pm *Inside Ulster*

6.00pm Six O'Clock News (Ceslex) and weather (781)

6.30pm Regional News Magazine (753) N.I.: 6.30pm *Neighbours*

7.00pm *Holiday* (Ceslex) (Ceslex) (2981239) 7.10pm *Holiday* (Ceslex) (Ceslex) (2981239)

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## BBC2

6.00am Zone Business and Work (60101)

6.30am *Gong Solo* (60101)

7.00am Breakfast News (Ceslex) (6011323)

7.15am *Lasalle* (Ceslex) (3195101) 7.40am *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* (Ceslex) (7259865) 8.05am *Blue Peter* (Ceslex) (6202472)

8.35pm *The Record* (Ceslex) (9493507) 9.00pm *The History Men* (Ceslex) (6343217)

9.05pm *Daytime on Two* (Ceslex) (6074236) 9.25pm *See You, See Me* (6054472) 9.45pm *Watch* (3136858) 10.00pm *Playdays* (6050577) 10.25pm *Come Outside* (7131491) 10.45pm *The Experiment* (4195188) 11.05pm *Space Ark* (6026775)

11.15pm *Clementine* (6453052) 11.30pm *Ghostwriter* (4694) 12.00pm *See Hear!* (10255) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (48826) 1.00pm *Teaching Today* (20217) 1.30pm *Showcase* (7542595)

1.40pm *Hotch Potch House* (Ceslex) (5404458) 2.00pm *Junior Jungle* (Ceslex) (60441743)

2.10pm *The Andrew Hall Show* (Ceslex) (5426556)

3.00pm *News* (Ceslex) and weather (5107433)

3.30pm *News* (Ceslex) and weather (5107433)

4.00pm *Today's Day* (Ceslex) (948) 4.30pm *Ready, Steady, Cook* (Ceslex) (830) 5.00pm *EastEnders* (4472)

5.30pm *The Village* (507052)

5.55pm *My Village* (23297)

6.00pm *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* (577472) WALEs: 6.00pm *Heartbreak High* (58583)

6.45pm *Local Heroes* (58581) 7.15pm *Rugby Union: Swansea v Pontypool* (2227518)

9.00pm *Food and Drink* (3101)

9.25pm *Heartbreak High* (Ceslex) (Ceslex) (475491)

7.10pm *The Ren and Stimpy Show* (Ceslex) (Ceslex) (180525)

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Fowler and Collymore included in England's forward thinking

# Liverpool pair strike chord with Venables

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

YESTERDAY signalled the beginning of the end for Terry Venables, the England football coach. It was his first squad get-together, in Marlow, since he announced that he would stand down after the European championship finals. If his mind was already on matters of a litigious nature, as it will be from July onwards, it did not show. It was football business, as usual, at Bisham Abbey.

For Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore, the Liverpool forwards, yesterday signalled the beginning of the beginning — the day that they graduated from international fringe status to approaching the real thing. Tangible reward for a blossoming Anfield strike force, begging Ian Rush's pardon, that has amassed 17 goals in a sequence of nine unbeaten matches.

Venables watched them in the 5-0 defeat of Leeds United on Saturday and subsequently invited them to his Football Association retreat, on the banks of the Thames in Buckinghamshire, for a three-day course in all things England. Plenty of theory and plenty of practice, another bonding session to create harmony and comradeship before Venables's final fling.

Even the lack of a match to aim at — the next England fixture, against Bulgaria, is not until March 27 — failed to dampen his enthusiasm. "It's obviously better to have a game, but we know the championship draw, and we know the three teams we will be playing, so there's a lot we can work on," he said. "Although we're still five months away from the tournament, we've got three or four sessions between now and then. It's just a question of keeping things going, keeping them ticking over."

Of the probabilities and

possibilities for Euro '96, Ferdinand, Lee, Howey, Stone, Platt and Anderton were sidelined, nursing a variety of ailments. Paul Ince, having now settled at Internazionale, in Milan, and been recalled to the squad, joined in only the warm-up session before succumbing to a back complaint. Redknapp, missing since mid-November, because of injury, looked sprightly.

Nothing is certain, though; nobody is in and nobody is out. Venables's open-door policy remains until the cut-off



Venables: businesslike

point at the end of May, when he makes his final selection of 18 outfield players plus three goalkeepers. Hence the inclusion of Fowler, 20, whose only previous senior experience was as a guest at training; and Collymore, 25 yesterday, who played in the Umbro Cup matches against Japan and Brazil in June, for 77 and 11 minutes respectively.

For Collymore, it rubbers stamps his rehabilitation, mentally rather than physically, from the moan-and-groan stage that he went through after moving from Nottingham Forest to Liverpool for £8.5 million. His general dis-

quiet was not helped by an indiscreet, tell-all article in a football magazine.

"I had a chat with Roy Evans [the Liverpool manager] and he made it clear he still wanted me to play for the club," Collymore said. "I made it clear I wanted to play for the club, too. Maybe I talked too much. I'm now keeping a bit quiet on that front and just getting on with it."

For Fowler, it is no more than a natural progression, from Rush's precocious sidekick at Anfield through to the England Under-21 side — and now beyond. "The partnership with Stan is going well," he said. "Of course, it can still get better, but we're quite happy with how it's going at the moment. With Ian Rush on the bench, you've got to keep playing well."

Venables has been impressed. "They're developing a very good understanding," he said. "Robbie has always been on the edge of the squad, but he's got some formidable opposition to get past. The door is still ajar, as I've always said it was."

He is equally happy to welcome back Ince, after an absence of more than a year. "I knew it would take time for him to settle in Italy," he said. "Now that he has turned that corner and is playing well out there, I can make a more accurate assessment of him."

One issue, though, is not subject to change, whether England fall at the first hurdle or win the European championship. Venables has made his decision and will stick by it, though he has agreed to assist in finding his successor at Lancaster Gate. Asked if there was any room for second thoughts, he replied: "No chance." The man is not for turning.

Italy will be without Roberto and Dino Baggio, Gianluca Vialli and Paolo Maldini for the match against Wales in Terni tomorrow. Mark Hughes returns for Wales.



Collymore, front, and Fowler at Bisham Abbey yesterday after their free scoring forced them into the England reckoning. Photograph: Tony White

## Atherton stresses need to regroup

By SIMON WILDE

ENGLAND'S cricketers arrive home today with little time to relax and put their heavy defeats at the hands of South Africa behind them before most of them depart for the World Cup on the Asian sub-continent. Of the 17 players who left Johannesburg yesterday, only Mark Ramprakash, Dermot Reeve and Mike Watkinson will not be heading for Lahore on February 3.

England's final three weeks in South Africa were so lacking in success that the week-long acclimatisation period in Pakistan will now be devoted to intensive practice. The players will be based at the University ground in Lahore.

"We must use the first week in Lahore to pick ourselves up," Michael Atherton,

the captain, said. "We need to build up confidence and get into a groove. The players must get into a decent frame of mind. If we play as we did in South Africa, we have no chance of winning the cup. We must play to our potential. In the past two or three years, we have beaten everybody."

Reflecting on the tour of South Africa, Atherton said that the closing weeks were not a fair reflection of the whole visit. "The Test series was lost in a crazy half-hour in Cape Town and we got into a bit of a rut in the one-day matches," he said. "Our performances slid into mediocrity."

The problem for Atherton and Raymond Illingworth, the manager, who has confirmed that he does not want to tour again, is that every area of England's game must improve if they are to do well

in the World Cup. In the one-day matches in South Africa, the batting failed to gel, the bowling was often expensively wayward in the early overs and the fielding was regularly sloppy.

Most of the players will be allowed to rest during their ten days at home, but not those — such as the two specialist spin bowlers, Richard Illingworth and Neil Smith — who played few of the one-day matches. They will be asked to follow training programmes.

England's opening World Cup fixture is against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on February 14. The other teams in their group, from which four qualify, are Pakistan, South Africa, Holland and the United Arab Emirates.

Muralitharan picked, page 42

## McMillan will 'fight for nothing'

Boxers are forever threatening to "fight for nothing", in the other man's back yard or front parlour, to prove a point; but their manager's instinct for putting self interest first has always made them think again. So it was not surprising that Frank Maloney nearly fell off his chair when, a couple of weeks ago, Colin McMillan, the former British Commonwealth, European and World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, walked into his office in London and offered his services for nothing.

"My ears lifted up at that," Maloney said yesterday. "Is this some kind of gimmick or what, I thought. So I called in Ed [Ed Robinson, his press officer] to record the conversation. In case he reported me to the board of the FBA [Professional Boxers Association]."

McMillan was serious. Although many believe that at 29, he is past his best, McMillan thinks that he still has enough left in him to win a

## Srikumar Sen discovers a former champion using extreme methods to return to the top

world title. Yet he said that he had not been able to find work since July.

"I have been unable to get a title fight, or any meaningful work for several months," he said. "I like to think that this

may be partly due to the risk I pose to my fellow contenders. However, I fear this has more to do with my refusal to sign myself away for effectively the rest of my career. Accordingly, I am protesting my right to

fight. For my next bout in my home town, Barking, I will receive, at my own request, a purse of nothing."

Maloney, who, as Lennox Lewis's manager, understands policies only too well, signed to put on a show on January 30 at the Broadway Theatre, Barking — a landmark in British boxing history.

McMillan and Maloney will receive no money, but Justin Murphy, of Brighton, McMillan's opponent, and the boxers on the undercard will be paid. Any profit from the show will go to a London hospital and the FBA.

The man whom McMillan really wants to meet is Naseem Hamed, but first he has to deal with the council road sweeper from Brighton. Murphy has had ten contests, of which he has won seven, but he promises to give a somewhat better account of himself than "road sweepers" of the Mexican variety that British promoters used to rope in for young prospects.



McMillan to clear path with Brighton road sweeper

## Ball to sign defender after latest raid on Germany

By PETER BALL

MANCHESTER City's search for a left back has taken them back to Germany. They have agreed to sign Michael Frontzek, Borussia Mönchengladbach's Germany international, for £350,000.

Frontzek, 30, was expected in Manchester last night to discuss personal terms with Francis Lee, the City chairman, today. He will join Uwe Rösler and Elke Immel on the Maine Road staff, and was recommended to Alan Ball, the City manager, by Immel, the goalkeeper.

The transfer ends City's quest for a left back since the injury to Richard Edgill and the departure of Terry Phelan, Southampton having refused to reduce their £1 million asking price for Chris Powell, City's original target.

Newcastle United, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, have had their bid for Chris Waddle, the former Tyneside idol, rejected by Sheffield Wednesday and Bayern Munich have refused to allow Jean-Pierre Papin, the France striker, to go to St James' Park on loan. "I told Newcastle we still needed him," David Pleat, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said.

That leaves Faustino Asprilla, Farnes, Colombia striker, and David Batty, Blackburn Rovers' England international midfielder, as Newcastle's most likely targets. Batty is expected to have a meeting with Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, this morning, when the latter returns from London.

Harford was unavailable yesterday, but he is understood to have decided that Tim Sherwood and Batty cannot play together. After being dropped ten days ago, Sherwood replaced Batty during the FA Cup defeat by Ipswich Town, and is now the man in possession. If Batty does go to Newcastle, a fee of around £3 million is likely.

Sunderland received little encouragement in their bid to sign Ian Rush, Liverpool refusing to allow the Wales striker to go to Roker Park on loan, although a concrete offer in the region of £750,000 could persuade Liverpool to release him, if reluctantly. "I don't want him to go, and we will offer him a new contract," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said.

## RFU invites France to consider stamping allegation

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD DOURTHE, the young Dax centre who shared in France's win over England on the opening weekend of rugby union's five nations championship, risks suspension if his federation accepts the evidence of foul play indicated on the match video.

Ben Clarke, the England No 8, needed several stitches in a head wound during the first half and, though the Rugby Football Union (RFU) does not intend to cite Dourthe, it has asked the French rugby federation to look at an incident highlighted by BBC's *Rugby Special*, in which Dourthe appears to aim a gratuitous kick at Clarke's head.

André Herrero, the chairman of the France selectors, said that a one- or two-match suspension was possible if the stamping allegation were proved. Dourthe, 21, was involved in a similar incident during the series against New Zealand last autumn and even his profile in the match programme from Parc des Princes last Saturday admits a "temperament that should be better-controlled".

"I spoke to Ben [Clarke] before sending the letter," Tony Hall, the RFU secretary, said yesterday. "He is happy with our action. He did not see who did it and has no impression of how deliberate the injury was."

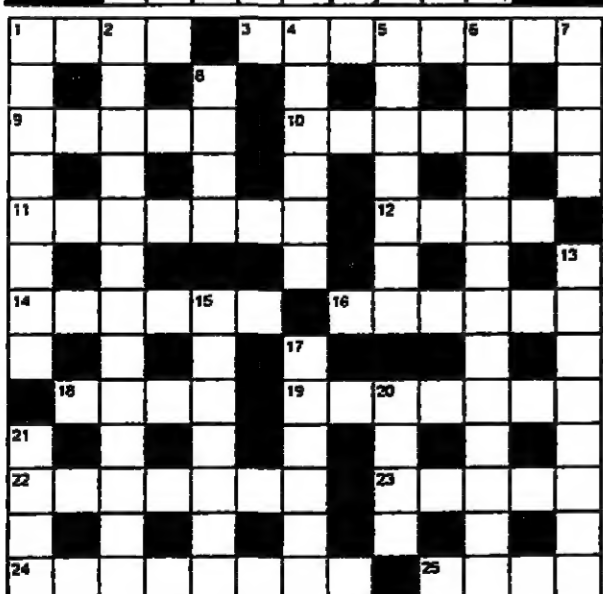
The incident is out of character with the general improvement in French discipline in international rugby over the past three years and it must be hoped that prompt action now will have a lasting effect on a talented player.

Scotland, victors over Ireland, will name their team tomorrow to play France on February 3. England's management sits down tonight to debate change to the XV to play Wales on the same day. Mark Regan and Mike Catt face an anxious wait.

Neil Jenkins, the Pontypridd stand-off half, may miss selection in the Wales squad of 32 to be named this morning. He is recovering from a broken collarbone, has not played for more than a month and misses the Heineken League match with Swansea tonight.

Weir set to sign, page 42

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 685

## ACROSS

- 1 Reach a maximum (4)
- 3 In the open air (8)
- 5 Form, mould; jelly (5)
- 10 Pod flavouring ice-cream, sugar (7)
- 11 Come into (7)
- 12 James — steam-engine pioneer (4)
- 14 Yippee! (6)
- 16 Yours truly (6)
- 18 Patterned in two colours (4)
- 19 Warlike; Roman poet (7)
- 22 Bettered (7)
- 23 Sharp point; flower cluster (5)
- 24 Without cost (slang) (8)

## DOWN

- 2 Fastening; tangle (4)
- 1 Work imitating another's style (8)
- 2 Set wrongly in time (13)
- 4 Unseriousness (6)
- 5 Go down plughole; escape (3,4)
- 6 (Boxing) majority verdict (5,8)
- 7 Arabian sultanate (4)
- 8 Father of Cordelia (4)
- 13 Uncomfortably off (8)
- 15 Demanding effort (7)
- 17 Hinder, obstruct (6)
- 20 Water-plant; hurry (4)
- 21 Explosive device (4)

## SOLUTION TO No 684

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